



Welsh Bird Report No. 28: 2014

Edited by Rhion Pritchard

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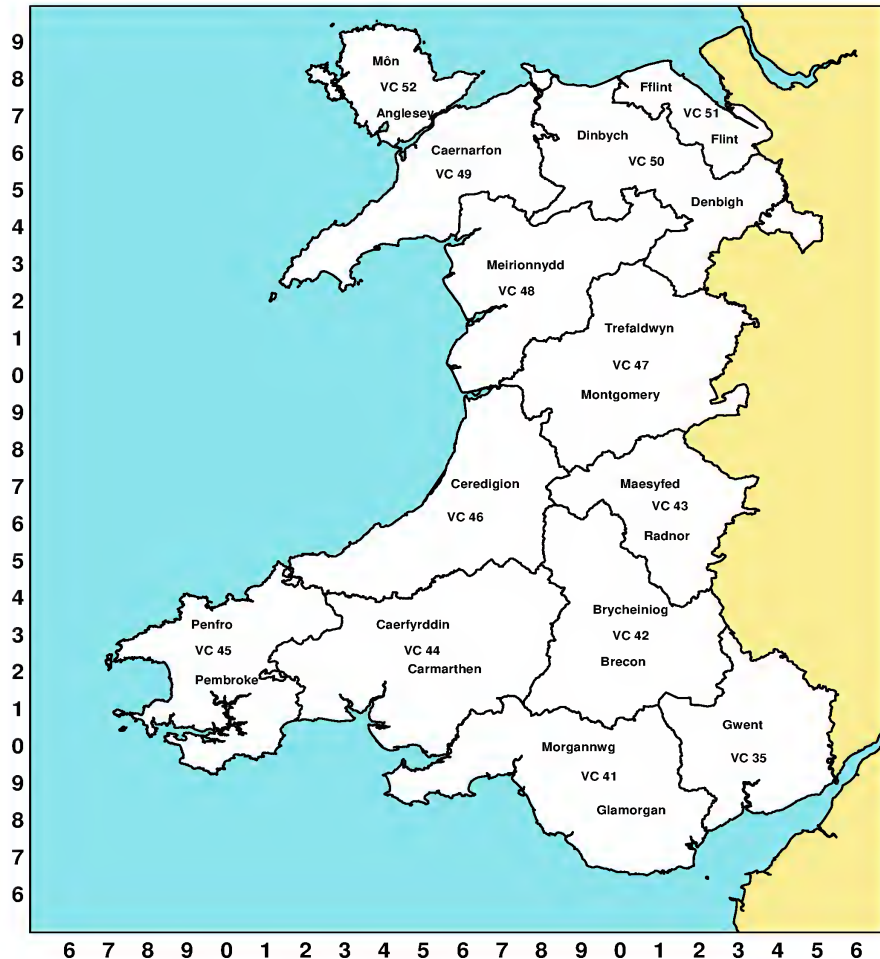
Cover photo: Water Rail chicks at Llangorse by Steve Wilce.

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Introduction

The map shows the bird recording areas for Wales used in *Birds in Wales*. The Welsh Ornithological Society uses the Watsonian Vice-county system (see the Ray Society, publication No. 146) as the basis of bird recording in Wales. This system largely matches the pre-1974 administrative Counties used by the Society until 1996.

Welsh Vice Counties



A list of the County Recorders is given on the inside back cover, and a list of bird reports on page 213. *Birds in Wales* was published by T. & A.D. Poyser in 1994. This was updated in 2002 with the WOS publication *Birds in Wales 1992-2000*. Both are now out of print, though *Birds in Wales* is available as a POD and e-version.

TREATMENT OF RECORDS IN THE WELSH BIRD REPORT

The Systematic List covers the calendar year 2014 unless otherwise indicated. Additions and corrections for previous years are recorded in the main List, with the relevant year shown. Species names and order follow the British Ornithologists' Union (BOU) British List as of 18th Jan 2014. The species included in the main list are those placed by the BOU in Category A (recorded in an apparently natural state at least once since 1st January 1950) or Category C (introduced species which now have a self-sustaining population).

For some species monthly maximum counts for the main sites are tabulated as available. Unless noted as WeBS, these figures are the peak count noted at each site in that month and do not represent coordinated counts on a single day. Some overlap may therefore occur, as birds move between sites. For some wildfowl, the numbers of breeding pairs are assessed by the number of males present during the breeding season.

Records from GLAMORGAN are split into E. GLAMORGAN or GOWER. The area along the Wye, around Glasbury, is entered as RADNOR / BRECON unless the county was specifically identified by the respective county recorders. RSPB Conwy reserve is treated as being in DENBIGH unless the bird concerned was specifically noted to be in the small corner of the reserve which lies in CAERNARFON.

The records for some species are summarised to show the total recorded in each month for each county. Where a bird stays into 2 or more months it is recorded for each month.

The species codes are as follows: (A) *A rare species where all records are quoted*, (B) *Unusual species, where a summary of records is given*, (C) *Commoner species, where a summary of breeding records, large counts or unusual records is given*, (D) *A common species, where there is nothing of note to report*.

Species under threat given Red or Amber codes for Wales are noted. These are based on Johnstone, I, Young, A. and Thorpe, R.I. "The revised population status of birds in Wales" *Birds in Wales* Vol.7 No 1 (2010) pp.39 - 91. Species where a WeBS High Alert has been issued for Wales are also noted, from Thaxter, C.B., Sansom, A. Thewlis, R.M., Calbrade, N.A, Ross-Smith, V.H., Bailey, S., Mellan, H.J. & Austin, G.E. (2010) Wetland Bird Survey Alerts 2006/2007: Changes in numbers of wintering waterbirds in the Constituent Countries of the United Kingdom, Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs). BTO Research Report 556. BTO, Thetford.

SUBMISSION OF RECORDS

It is the policy of the Society NOT TO PUBLISH in this Report any records of species on the list of the British Birds Rarities Committee (BBRC) or on the list of the Welsh Records Panel (WRP) unless that record has been considered and accepted by the BBRC or WRP. Where a species is on one of these lists, this is noted in the comment on status. All records have been accepted by the relevant body unless specifically stated otherwise.

Not all records of species on these lists reach the relevant committee. Records not published here may never have been submitted or be still under consideration. It is helpful

if descriptions of BBRC and WRP species are submitted as soon as possible after the sighting. Records submitted too late for a decision in time for publication in the Report for that year will be included in subsequent years if accepted.

Records should be submitted to BBRC through County Recorders or in an electronic form ONLY to secretary@bbrc.org.uk. If it is a written or typed description, please send to the WRP Secretary, Jon Green, who will scan and send it on to BBRC.

WELSH RECORDS PANEL

The Welsh Records Panel considers records of all scarce species in Wales, defined as those occurring five times or fewer per year in Wales on average, but which are not on the BBRC list. The current list is shown below. Only records of these species adjudicated and accepted by the Panel are published in the Welsh Bird Report.

Descriptions can be submitted via County Recorders or direct to the Panel's Secretary. Description forms are available from County Recorders or the Secretary. Any observer submitting a description to the Panel can see their deliberations on the record on request. The Panel has 5 voting members and a non-voting Secretary; membership in 2014 comprised:

Reg Thorpe (Caernarfon, Chair), Mike Powell (E. Glamorgan), Richard Dobbins (Pembrokeshire), Marc Hughes (Caernarfon), Steve Culley (Anglesey), S.D. Stansfield (Bardsey). J. Green (non-voting Secretary) (Ceredigion); address: Crud-yr-Awel, Bowls Road, Blaenporth, Cardigan SA43 2AR, email: welshrarebirds@tiscali.co.uk.

In 2014, the full list of species which the Panel considered was as follows:

Bean Goose	Stone-curlew	Subalpine Warbler
American Wigeon	Kentish Plover	Barred Warbler
Green-winged Teal	American Golden Plover	Greenish Warbler
Ring-necked Duck	Temminck's Stint,	Dusky Warbler
Ferruginous Duck	Pectoral Sandpiper	Radde's Warbler
Surf Scoter	White-rumped Sandpiper	Pallas's Warbler
White-billed Diver	Buff-breasted Sandpiper	Red-breasted
Cory's Shearwater	Red-necked Phalarope	Rose-coloured Starling
Great Shearwater	Caspian Gull	Red-backed Shrike
Wilson's Petrel	Ring-billed Gull	Woodchat Shrike
Great White Egret	White-winged Black Tern	Golden Oriole
Cattle Egret	Alpine Swift	Bearded Tit
Night Heron	Short-toed Lark	Serin
Purple Heron	Shore Lark	Parrot Crossbill
White Stork	Bee-eater	Common Redpoll
Black Kite	Red-rumped Swallow	Arctic Redpoll
Montagu's Harrier	Red-throated Pipit	Common Rosefinch
Rough-legged Buzzard	Tawny Pipit	Corn Bunting
White-tailed Eagle	Nightingale	Girl Bunting
Golden Eagle	Bluethroat	Ortolan Bunting

Red-footed Falcon
Corncrake
Spotted Crake
Crane

Aquatic Warbler
Marsh Warbler
Icterine Warbler
Melodious Warbler

Rustic Bunting
Little Bunting

Scarce races are considered on the same basis, i.e. all those occurring on average five times or fewer annually). Examples of races considered by the WRP are :

Black Brant Goose – *nigricans*
Iceland Gull – *kumlieni*
Common Guillemot – *hyperborea*
Razorbill – *torda*
Little Auk – *polaris*
Great Spotted Woodpecker – *major*
Grey-headed Wagtail – *thunbergi*

Siberian Chiffchaff – *tristis*
Treecreeper – *familiaris*
Coal Tit – *ater*
Jay – *glandarius*
Jackdaw – *monedula*
Redpolls – *islandica* / *rostrata*
Bullfinch – *pyrrhula*

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Sections of this report were compiled by Julian Hughes (Wildfowl and Gamebirds), Jon Green (Raptors), Bob Haycock (Skuas to Gulls), Richard Facey (Oriole to Hirundines) and Stephanie Tyler (remainder of Passerines). I would like to thank them for their hard work.

Thanks are due to all County Recorders and observers for the data upon which the Systematic List is based and to Recorders and Editors also for their help with all the Editor's additional queries. Extra information was supplied by Steve Roberts (Honey-buzzard) and Adrienne Stratford (Cross/Stratford Welsh Chough Project; Chough). The Ringing Report was produced by Peter Howlett, from ringing returns from the various ringing groups in Wales. We would like to thank them all for their records. Thanks also to the photographers, who are credited in the captions. My thanks to all for their help, and also to Ian Spence for his help with the cover design and layout of photographs.

Rhion Pritchard, Editor.

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Weather summary for Wales 2014

This summary is based on the Met Office's monthly summaries for Wales at <http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/climate/uk/summaries/2014/>

In **January**, the weather was generally unsettled, with severe gales in the first week, reaching 82 mph at Mumbles Head on the 3rd. Rainfall was above average; this was the fourth wettest January in Wales since the series began in 1910. The mean temperature was 1.2°C above the 1981-2010 average, and there were only 2.2 days of air frost. Aberystwyth sea-front was badly damaged by storms over the New Year period, and the sea defences were breached at Llanbedr in Gwynedd leading to about 1,000 acres of farmland being flooded, while Afon Tywi burst its banks in Carmarthen.

February was another very windy month, with several spells of strong to gale-force winds; a gust reached 108 mph at Aberdaron, Gwynedd, on the 12th. Rainfall was again high, 218% of the average for this month, making it the third-wettest February since 1910. In the 24 hour period ending at 0900 GMT on the 15th, 77.1 mm of rain fell at Dinorwig, Gwynedd. It was again mild, with the mean temperature 1.5°C above the 1981-2010 average.

March saw a change in the weather. Though there were some unsettled spells with showers, there were also spells of warm and sunny weather, particularly in mid-month. Mean temperature was 1.1°C above the 1981-2010 average and sunshine was 127% of the average for the month. March was also a much drier month, with only rainfall only 68% of average.

April continued the trend of above-average temperatures, with the mean temperature 1.6°C above the 1981-2010 average, making this the sixth warmest April recorded since 1910. There were unsettled conditions early and late in the month, but with warm, dry, weather in mid-month. Rainfall was 88% of the average for the month, with particularly low rainfall in the north but wetter conditions in the south.

May was once again slightly warmer than average, with the mean temperature for the month 0.7°C above the 1981-2010 average. However, apart from a drier and sunnier spell mid-month, with temperatures reaching 22.4°C at Bute Park, Cardiff, on the 16th, it was a wet month, with 152% of average rainfall overall, and hours of sunshine were well below average at 77%.

June was yet again a warm month, with the mean temperature 1.0°C above the 1981-2010 average and hours of sunshine well above average. It followed a familiar pattern, with a spell of fine, settled weather in mid-month and more unsettled weather early and late in the month. This was a much drier month however, and rainfall only reached 68% of the average.

July was similar to June. Mean temperature for the month was again 1.0°C above the 1981-2010 average and rainfall was only 62% of average. Hours of sunshine were 131% of the average for this month, and temperatures reached 29.2 °C at Porthmadog on the 23rd.

For the first time in 2014, **August** saw mean temperatures below the average for the month, 1.0°C below the 1981-2010 average. The month was mainly unsettled, and rainfall was 133% of the average, with south east Wales being particularly wet. Sunshine was about average.

September returned to the pattern of above-average temperatures; the mean temperature was 1.2°C above the 1981-2010 average, and this was the equal-third warmest September since 1910. Conditions were mainly settled, with above average sunshine. This was a very dry month, the third-driest September since 1910 with rainfall only 14% of the average for the month.

October was more unsettled, but temperatures remained higher than usual, 1.7°C above the 1981-2010 average for the month. Rainfall was 105% of the average, and the number of hours of sunshine was below average.

November was another mainly unsettled and warm month. The mean temperature for the month was 1.0 °C above the 1981-2010 average, and there were more hours of sunshine than usual for November, 116% of the average. Overall, rainfall was slightly below average, 93% of the average for the month, but there were large regional variations, with the north getting much less rain than the south.

December was a similar month to November, mainly unsettled but with rainfall slightly below average. There were again regional variations in rainfall, but this time the south was drier than the north. The mean temperature was 0.7°C above the 1981-2010 average. There was some snow on high ground, but there was plenty of sun, 125% of the long-term average.

Overall, 2014 turned out to be the warmest year on record in Wales, with mean temperatures above average for 11 out of the 12 months. Very few air frosts were recorded in coastal areas. Rainfall was slightly above average in the south, but slightly below average in the north. The higher than average temperatures apparently helped breeding birds, with most species starting to breed earlier than in 2013 and breeding much more successfully than in 2012 and 2013 (BTO).

Systematic List 2014

MUTE SWAN *Cygnus olor*

ALARCH DOF

(C) Resident breeding species, now increasing in most counties. Wales – Amber listed.

Breeding counts (not full surveys except Gower): GWENT: pairs/nests at 22 sites; E. GLAMORGAN: 21 pairs bred at 14 sites; GOWER: 12 nests, of which 11 successful; CARMARTHEN: two pairs bred at two sites; PEMBROKE: bred at eight locations; BRECON: 10 nests at five sites; RADNOR: 26 breeding pairs; MEIRIONNYDD: bred at 10 sites. CAERNARFON: nine pairs bred at nine sites; ANGLESEY: eight pairs at two sites; DENBIGH: three nests/broods at three sites.

A 243% increase in the last 25 years (Wetland Bird Survey alerts: BTO/JNCC/RSPB), numbers stabilising in the last five years. Systematic counts of at least 40 birds recorded at least once during the year are listed in the table.

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
GWENT												
St Brides	88	31	16		28		2	2	4	7	18	12
Llangybi	11	18	26			5					54	55
E. GLAMORGAN												
Roath Park L	65	67	68	62		88		102	100	89		102
Cardiff Bay	7	44	45	54	4	184	358	334	155	50	39	40
Cosmeston	55	50	60	54	52	34	32	33	46	40	45	46
CARMARTHEN												
Drys'n/Cilsan	62	61	71						31	65	26	67
PEMBROKE												
Cleddau	28	27	29						49	58	51	30
BRECON												
Llangorse	52	62	62		83	120	141	128	143	112	77	42
MEIRIONNYDD												
Glaslyn Marshes	26		18							24	38	45
CAERNARFON												
Tr. Lafan	10	12	15	5	62	99	112	114	63	23	15	10
FLINT												
White Sands	53	63		54	32	2		2		39	77	

Counts of 40+ elsewhere: E. GLAMORGAN: 43 on the River Ely between Leckwith and Penarth Rd on 11th Oct.; PEMBROKE: 100 on the Teifi Est. on 10th Sept.; 40 at Pembroke Mill Pond on 29th July; RADNOR: 213 in two flocks in Clyro/Bronydd area in Dec, a record count.

BEWICK'S SWAN *Cygnus bewickii*

ALARCH BEWICK

(A) Irregular winter visitor in small numbers. Wales – Amber listed.

The lowest total (just 58 birds) ever reported in the *WBR*, in line with counts from most of the rest of the UK. WeBS Alert for the short and medium term (BTO/JNCC/RSPB) is Amber.

All records were: GWENT: Up to six at Llanybi in Jan - Feb, and up to seven there in Dec, nine at Llandowlais and one at Caldicott Pill on 24th Dec, two on Nedern Wetlands on 28th Dec; RADNOR: Two at Clowes, 1st Jan - 16th Feb; DENBIGH: Family party of four at Trevalyn Meadows on 2nd March, probably same at Rossett on same date; FLINT: One at RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands on 1st - 19th Jan, six at White Sands on 19th Jan, small numbers in the Upper Dee Estuary in last week of Dec, inc. peak count of 19 at Shotwick Fields on 31st.

WHOOPEE SWAN *Cygnus cygnus*

ALARCH Y GOGLEDD

(B) Regular winter visitor in small numbers to several Welsh counties, notably Anglesey, Caernarfon, Montgomery and Meirionnydd. Wales – Amber listed.

Breeding season: CAERNARFON/MEIRIONNYDD: At least two, presumed injured, bird remained around Glaslyn Marshes throughout the summer.

Numbers counted in Wales have increased in line with an increase in the Icelandic breeding population (Wetland Bird Survey alerts: BTO/JNCC/RSPB), though 2014 was a poor year. Counts from the main wintering sites included:

		<i>J</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>A</i>		<i>S</i>	<i>O</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>D</i>
CARMARTHEN	Tywi Valley*	43	46	46				17	32	31
CEREDIGION	Cors Caron	8	8					7	5	
MEIRIONNYDD	Glaslyn Marsh	42	41	49	11			2	28	63
ANGLESEY	Malltraeth Marsh	12	11	9			3	10	16	25
FLINT	Dee estuary		42					2	19	14

*site record count at Cilsan Bridge

Elsewhere, county totals in each month:

	<i>J</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>A</i>		<i>A</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>O</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>D</i>
GWENT										1
E. GLAMORGAN								2		
PEMBROKE	3							11	5	
CEREDIGION	2		8					9	7	6
RADNOR	6	8	6						13	19
MONTGOMERY	5		2					1		7
MEIRIONNYDD								8	2	
CAERNARFON								5	5	2
ANGLESEY	3		25					5	21	1
DENBIGH		10	3					10		2

PINK-FOOTED GOOSE *Anser brachyrhynchus*

GWYDD DROED-BINC

(A) A scarce and irregular winter visitor, chiefly to north Wales. Subject to hard weather influxes. Spring and summer records relate to feral birds, as may some winter and autumn records.

FLINT: The peak count in late 2014 was 5,000 birds, on Flint saltmarsh on 16th Dec. The average peak count during 2005-10 was just 282 birds. Is this increase an overspill from the Lancashire Mosses reaching capacity? It is in contrast to the rest of Wales, where the number of birds reported is generally declining.

Away from the Dee, county totals in each month:

	J	F	M	A		A	S	O	N	D
E GLAMORGAN				1						
GOWER				1						
PEMBROKE			1							
CEREDIGION							6		5	
MONTGOMERY				1						
CAERNARFON	1		1						5	
ANGLESEY	12			1				41		
DENBIGH		1	1	2					40	

Single birds recorded during the spring/summer: at Llyn Coed-y-Dinas, MONTGOMERY, on 21st April and 8th May and at RSPB Ynys-hir, CEREDIGION, on 14th July and 14th Aug, were presumed to be of feral origin.

WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE *A. albifrons*

GWYDD DALCEN-WEN

(B) Scarce winter visitor; Ceredigion supports the only regular flock of *flavirostris*. Rare elsewhere, though hard weather can result in increases in *albifrons* from the east. Wales – Red listed.

The long-term decline in Greenland White-fronts, with numbers in 2014/15 falling below 20,000 individuals worldwide. Wales' sole regular wintering population (on the Dyfi) diminishes annually and few are recorded elsewhere. Low breeding productivity is a fundamental problem but Wales is now the only country within its regular home range where their hunting is legal.

Greenland White-fronts (*flavirostris*): CEREDIGION: Flock of 37 remained on the Dyfi estuary until 23rd Jan then reduced to 33 until 10th April, first 10 of second winter period seen on 28th Oct, with a peak of just 20 on 7th Nov; CAERNARFON: One on Bardsey on 21st Oct, 6 at Morfa Aber on 8th Nov; ANGLESEY: 12 at Llyn Coron on 12th March, 17 at RSPB Malltraeth Marsh on 12th Dec; FLINT: One on the Clwyd estuary on 29th-30th Nov.

European White-fronts (*albifrons*): PEMBROKE: One over Skokholm on 18th May, presumed same at Marloes on 21st May; DENBIGH: One at Trevalyn Meadows on 9th Feb.

Records not sub-specifically reported: GWENT: Singles at Cwmbran Boating Lake on 10th Jan and at Peterstone Golf Course on 7th Feb, both with Canada Geese; RADNOR: One at

Clyro/Bronydd/Llowes, 26th Nov to 31st Dec; MONTGOMERY: two at Dolydd Hafren, 16th-23rd March.

GREYLAG GOOSE *A. anser*

GWYDD WYLLT

(C) Majority of records thought to relate to feral birds, mainly in Caernarfon, Anglesey and Denbigh, but with increasing numbers farther south.

Greylag Goose remains a fairly scarce breeding species; where do all those wintering birds go? Greylag Geese appear to be more migratory in Wales than we realise.

Breeding was recorded as follows: GWENT: Single pair at each of three sites; E. GLAMORGAN: 4+ pairs at two sites; CARMARTHEN: Nine broods at Penclacwydd; BRECON: Two broods at Llyn Brianne Res.; RADNOR: One pair bred; CAERNARFON: Three broods at Llyn Glasfryn; ANGLESEY: Four nests on The Skerries, two nests at Cemlyn, 164 goslings at RSPB Malltraeth Marsh in midsummer; DENBIGH: Broods at three sites.

The number of counts over 100 (below) returned to the 10-year average.

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
CARMARTHEN												
Penclacwydd	67	40	47	46	55	70	45	81	121	156	110	35
Cilsan Br	700	178	40							250	346	185
CAERNARFON												
Traeth Lafan	18	78	20	7	12	31	31	610	608	2	70	60

Counts >100 elsewhere: GOWER: 127 on the Upper Burry Inlet on 10th Aug; CARMARTHEN: 427 on the Taf estuary and 110 at Dinefwr Ponds in Sept; DENBIGH: 150 at Worthenbury on 16th Jan, 197 at Llewini Hall, Bodfari, on 19th Jan, 140+ at Llyn Brenig on 12th July, 350 at Llandyrnog on 9th Nov, 200 at Ridleywood on 20th Dec; FLINT: Over 150 at Rhuddlan through Aug, peaking at 315 on 14th, 270 at Talacre Dunes on 7th Sept, 160 at Shotwick Fields/RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands on 19th Dec, 175+ at Hope on 31st Dec.

GREATER CANADA GOOSE *Branta canadensis*

GWYDD CANADA

(C) A locally common feral breeding resident in most counties, with populations; continuing to expand.

Breeding records, presumed under-recorded: GWENT: 27 pairs bred at 13 sites; E. GLAMORGAN: 19 pairs bred at 12 sites; GOWER: 10 broods at five sites; PEMBROKE: Bred at four locations; BRECON: Nine nests/broods at six sites; MEIRIONNYDD: Six pairs at five sites; CAERNARFON: At least 19 pairs bred at 10 sites, including several on upland lakes in Snowdonia; ANGLESEY: 20+ pairs bred at four sites; DENBIGH: Broods at seven sites; FLINT: Bred at Connah's Quay NR.

Although the rate of population growth has stabilised in Britain as a whole, it remains strong on the edge of its core naturalised range: in Scotland, the Netherlands and Wales. The number of sites holding more than 100 birds during the year has trebled in 10 years, and counts >300 (below) also reached a new high of 26.

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
GWENT												
Llandegfedd	12	63	20	29	40	120	27		468		5	3
Newport WR	67	102	138	91	77	9	110	500	18	220	242	212
E GLAMORGAN												
Ogmore Est	100	77	50	20		20	51	340	376	100	350	92
CARMARTHEN												
D'slwyn/Cil	150	209	74							265	260	355
PEMBROKE/CEREDIGION												
Teifi Est.	42	4	10						1500	760	32	324
CEREDIGION												
Dyfi Est.	622	436	312		315		1831	1131	1004	1420	1265	844
BRECON												
Llangorse	330	334	133	75	50	360	315	300	152	293	340	300
MEIRIONNYDD												
Glaslyn/Dwryrd	1186	698	17						120	507	332	321
Mawddach	64		83							346	123	325
DENBIGH												
RSPB Conwy	36	7	60	55	47	422	281	2				3
FLINT												
Oakenholt	1000		25	25	25	40	200	140	3000	60	200	2000

Counts of 300+ elsewhere: CARMARTHEN: 300 at White Bridge, Carmarthen, on 18th Jan; PEMBROKE: 2,000 at Newport on 22nd Sept; CEREDIGION: 350 at Cross Inn Forest on 29th Sept; RADNOR: 340 in Glasbury/Llowes area in Feb and March; MONTGOMERY: 350+ on the Upper Dyfi estuary on 15th Aug and on 27th Nov, 300 at Llyn Coed-y-Dinas on 17th Aug, 750 at Dolydd Hafren on 24th Nov; MEIRIONNYDD: 300 at Pont Croesor on 9th March, 300 on Traeth Bach on 7th Oct; DENBIGH: 400 at Trevalyn Meadows on 2nd Jan, 300 at Worthenbury on 16th Feb; FLINT: 1,600 at Connah's Quay NR on 26th Jan, 407 near Rhuddlan on 12th Aug, 1450 at Connah's Quay NR on 1st Nov and 2,000 at Flint on 30th Nov.

Colour-ringing shows that some birds wintering at Llyn Coed y Dinas, MONTGOMERY, and Llangorse Lake, BRECON, breed at Bowness-on-Windermere, CUMBRIA.

BARNACLE GOOSE *Branta leucopsis*

GWYDD WYRAN

(C) A regular winter visitor in recent years to the Dyfi Estuary with smaller numbers at other sites. Wales – Amber listed.

Breeding records were: BRECON: Two pairs on the Crannog at Llangorse raised eight young; ANGLESEY: Two broods at Llyn Traffwll. The origins of the growing Dyfi wintering population may have been answered by colour-ringing, with several birds being seen subsequently at Derwent Water, CUMBRIA. However, it remains a rare naturalised breeding species in Wales.

Approximate monthly totals for each county are tabulated:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
GWENT				1					1			
E. GLAMORGAN	3	2	2	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
CARMARTHEN					1						1	1
PEMBROKE								1	72			
CEREDIGION												
Ynys-hir*	2	2	2	2						342	341	340
Teifi/Cardigan I.									100			
BRECON			7		4	17		16				
MEIRIONNYDD	3	2	2			1		1		1		127
CAERNARFON		1	1									
ANGLESEY			2		7				6	4	15	1
Llyn Traffwll	11	11	10	10	2					3		13
DENBIGH			1			1						
FLINT									1	1	11	1

*flock also recorded on the MEIRIONNYDD side of the estuary, and in the upper estuary, MONTGOMERY (peak count of 400+ on 13th Sept.).

BRENT GOOSE *Branta bernicla*

GWYDD DDU

(B) A regular wintering population is found in the Burry Inlet and on Anglesey. Elsewhere, small numbers are recorded in winter and on passage. Wales – Amber listed.

The all-Wales trend of the dark-breasted *bernicla* population has fallen by 40% over the last decade (WeBS alerts, BTO/JNCC/RSPB); numbers of light-breasted *hrota* on Anglesey have stabilised after a decade of growth.

Monthly max. of *bernicla* (dark-breasted) at the main sites were:

	J	F	M	A		S	O	N	D
GOWER									
Whiteford	212	130	243				104	364	200
Weobley	258	361	186			15	196	340	351
Llanrhidian	512	688	286			55	46	290	398
Wernffrwd	330	345	371			1	17	290	314
Penclawdd	62	59	379				29		200
CARMARTHEN									
Penclawydd	44	54	66				14	86	73
Burry Port	40	37	33					23	19

Monthly max. of *hrota* (light-breasted) at the main sites were:

	J	F	M	A	M	S	O	N	D
CAERNARFON									
Foryd	148	100	130	110		28	200	160	50
Traeth Lafan	25	32	40				31	10	21
ANGLESEY									
Beddmanarch Bay	217	90		185		8	88	155	155
Inland Sea	217	100			1			45	222
Alaw estuary		165					88	132	182

Approximate monthly totals of both subspecies, excluding the above, are tabulated:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
<i>bernicla</i>	12	28	472	9					1	147	101	64
<i>hrota</i>	101	125	139	21	1	1			12	42	49	85
race unknown											2	

A darvic-ringed *hrota* on the Alaw Estuary, ANGLESEY, in December was ringed on Axel Heiberg Island, Canada on in August 2007 and regularly winters on Anglesey or the Foryd. A dark-bellied individual was shot illegally at Aberedw, RADNOR, on 31st Oct.

EGYPTIAN GOOSE *Alopochen aegyptiacus*

GWYDD YR AIFFT

(A) Feral.

A slight increase in records of a species increasing its numbers and range in England. GWENT: One, near Gobion Bridge on 31st March reported present for several months; FLINT: Four at Shotwick Fields on 19th Jan, one on White Sands on 16th Feb.

RUDDY SHELDUCK *Tadorna ferruginea*

HWYADEN GOCH YR EITHIN

(A) Feral.

ANGLESEY: One at Llyn Penrhyn on 7th April.

SHELDUCK *Tadorna tadorna*

HWYADEN YR EITHIN

(C) A locally common breeding resident in coastal areas, but rare passage migrant to inland counties. Wales – Amber listed.

Breeding season: GWENT: Six broods at two sites; E. GLAMORGAN: One pair; GOWER: 20+ broods at six sites; CARMARTHEN: 13 broods at Penclacwydd; PEMBROKE: Six pairs bred at three sites; CEREDIGION: Three broods at two sites; MONTGOMERY: Brood

at Llyn Coed y Dinas; MEIRIONNYDD: Bred on four estuaries; CAERNARFON: At least 20 pairs bred at five sites; ANGLESEY: 10 broods at two sites; FLINT: Broods at three locations.

The number of sites holding large flocks (50 or 100 birds) has doubled in the last five years compared to the previous five. Sites holding >100 birds:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
GWENT												
St Brides	16	33	15	11	11		36	13			113	7
Newport WR	84	311	95	198	49	86	116	62	624	94	167	96
Undy	143	109	122	103	77	151	212	88	370	189	134	98
E GLAMORGAN												
Rhymney Gt Whf	30	40	250	29	35			6	14	60		40
Rhymney est		65						10		435	130	130
Cardiff fshore		61	6		1			3		200		
GOWER												
Whiteford	110	144	77	26	20	5	14			4	100	72
Weobley	520	106	94	52	37	10		1	32	47	150	386
Llanrhidian	261	197	214	29	48	32	58				95	89
Wernffrwd	17	26	53	43	29	64	36	2		9	35	311
CARMARTHEN												
Penclacwydd	239	162	146	101	104	114	92	23	54	23	184	93
CEREDIGION												
Dyfi Est.	184	385	80		116		49	25	32	76	353	293
MEIRIONNYDD												
Glaslyn/Dwyrdd	101	54	54						90		119	55
CAERNARFON												
Y Foryd	200	76	114	66	31	16	4	8	3	0	24	7
Traeth Lafan	622	459	256	200	29	106	50	83	115	249	202	435
DENBIGH												
RSPB Conwy	15	22	83	80	177	58	3	12	64	1		17
FLINT												
Dee estuary	352	411	203	252	158	985	1028	966	421	437	246	
River Clwyd	120	119						70			180	

Counts of 100+ elsewhere: GOWER: 130 at Dalton's Point on 27th Nov; PEMBROKE: 105 at Carew/Cresswell on 20th Jan; ANGLESEY: 473 on the Cefni estuary on 20th Nov; DENBIGH: 220 at Kinmel Bay on 9th March.

MANDARIN DUCK *Aix galericulata*
(B) Scarce breeding resident.

HWYADEN GRIBOG

This may be the year that Mandarin 'broke through' as a Welsh breeding species, with many more records, especially in Gwent and Meirionnydd. The number of broods confirmed was at least 20, compared to the 10-year average of just three, though the real number is far higher given the limited number of observers in mid Wales. The total population must now number several hundred birds.

Records of breeding or possible breeding were: GWENT: Broods near Ruthlin and Bublins on the Wye, near Alltryny, Great Corras, Oldcastle, Osbaston and Llangua (two) on the Monnow, and at Llandegfedd Res.; RADNOR: 15-20 pairs on the Wye, Elan and Ithon rivers; MONTGOMERY: Assumed to have bred at multiple locations on rivers in the county; first breeding attempt at RSPB Llyn Efyrrwy; MEIRIONNYDD: Pairs at six sites in spring, broods at four other sites in June/July; DENBIGH: Broods at seven sites.

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
GWENT		7	26	29	27	4		1	1	10	11	5
GOWER	1		1					1		1		
CARMARTHEN					4						1	
BRECON			4	3	5		2		17	1	8	5
MONTGOMERY	"present on the Severn, Cain and Vyrnwy rivers"											
MEIRIONNYDD			18	6								
CAERNARFON		3		4	1+	8				1		
DENBIGH	"56 records from 27 10-km squares, mostly in the middle Dee Valley between Rhewl and Chirk"											
ANGLESEY						1	1					

WIGEON *Anas penelope*

CHWIWELL

(C) Common passage migrant and locally abundant winter visitor, chiefly to coastal counties. Wales – Amber listed.

Breeding season records: ANGLESEY: Single male at Cemlyn on 6th and 11th June and at RSPB Malltraeth Marsh during the breeding season, a pair oversummered at Traeth Dulas.

Wigeon numbers wintering in Wales trebled from the early 1980s, but have fallen by 19% in the short-term (WeBS alerts, BTO/JNCC/RSPB). The number of counts >300 birds recorded at least once during the year (below) is stable.

	J	F	M	A	M	JI	A	S	O	N	D
GWENT											
Peterstone Gt W	5	105	30								520
Peterstone Pill	136	105	84						195	205	420
Newport Wet	1566	999	143		2	2	4	315	563	616	1695
Undy	1	6	18					500	320	100	73
GOWER											
Whiteford	190	130						761	520	500	97
Weobley	20							245	40	3000	800
CARMARTHEN											
Penclacwydd	400	152	34	3		1	5	225	276	229	328
PEMBROKE											
Cleddau	1098	350	7					188	2069	5720	4049
CEREDIGION											
Dyfi Est.	1366	508	62				5	108	491	1736	2299
MEIRIONNYDD											
Glaslyn/Dwyrdd	816	439	25	31				30	1029	490	128
Mawddach	151		93						315	458	215
CAERNARFON											
Traeth Lafan	1265	640	150	4			2	261	933	964	1742
Foryd	550	210	200				12	370	890	1510	1890
FLINT											
Point of Ayr	660	730	60					4	120	60	450
RSPB Oakenholt	350	64	62					30	20	12	

Counts of 300+ elsewhere: GOWER: 320 at Landimore on 5th Jan, 620 at The Goose on 20th Dec; CARMARTHEN: 515 on the Taf estuary in Jan, 450 at Dryslwyn/Cilsan in Dec; PEMBROKE: 490 on Carew/Cresswell estuary on 20th Jan, 500 Castlemartin Corse on 12th March, 3,000 on Pembroke River on 20th Oct. and 1st Nov; CEREDIGION: 393 on the Teifi estuary in Dec; CAERNARFON: 420 at Llanengan on 11th Jan, 350 at Porthmadog on 5th March, 800 at Morfa Dinlle on 24th Dec; DENBIGH: 320 at Worthenbury on 2nd Jan, 850 at Trevalyn Meadows on 16th Jan.

AMERICAN WIGEON *Anas americana*

CHWIWELL AMERICA

(A) Scarce visitor from North America with 19 previous records in Wales. On WRP list.

GWENT: One on Uskmouth foreshore on 3rd-8th Feb was only the third county record.

GADWALL *Anas strepera*

HWYADEN LWYD

(C) Regular breeding bird in small numbers on Anglesey, and has bred in at least two other counties. Elsewhere a regular winter visitor to most counties in small numbers. Wales – Amber listed.

Breeding season: GWENT: Three broods at Llanwern Steelworks, one at Newport Wetlands; CARMARTHEN: Nine broods at Penclacwydd; ANGLESEY: 30 pairs at RSPB Valley Wetlands in spring but only one brood confirmed, single broods at two other sites. Birdwatchers are urged to report all breeding season records to their county recorder.

As elsewhere in the UK, wintering Gadwall in Wales increased markedly from the early 1980s to 2010, but few sites hold large numbers (WeBS Alerts, BTO/JNCC/RSPB). Fewer broods reported than in the previous two years, with numbers down in Carmarthenshire. Monthly max. (>20) at the main sites are tabulated.

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
GWENT												
Llanwern steel	23	20	12	14	6	14	5	17	34	24	34	1
Newport Wet	65	74	34	26	35	12	6	29	56	53	105	62
Peterstone Wnt	55	7	26	5	2		35	137			100	
The Warrage	41	21	47	1	2	6	56	1	66			84
Wentwood Res.		31	21		7	60	57	26	195	62	32	45
Ynysfro Res.	16	10	9	2		32	29	10	11	4	15	46
GOWER												
Llanrhidian	39	26	37	16	23	41	15	92	40	7	20	39
Oxwich Lake	28	9	5	7	4	2			6	14	34	48
CARMARTHEN												
Penclacwydd	89	28	42	42	26	53	42	99	51	101	29	126
BRECON												
Llangorse Lake	10	9	13	7	5	3	0	2	12	18	10	26
ANGLESEY												
Malltraeth	2	20	7	11	3				22	123	40	

Counts of 20+ elsewhere: GOWER: 54 at Salhouse Point on 29th Dec; PEMBROKE: 40 at Bosherton on 17th Jan; CARMARTHEN: 25 on the Ashpits Pond on 29th Jan, 36 on Penrhyngwyn on 21st Sept; FLINT: 41 at Shotton Paper Mill on 12th Sept.

TEAL *Anas crecca*

CORHWYADEN

(C) Small numbers breed in most counties, otherwise a widespread and abundant winter visitor and passage migrant. Wales – Amber listed.

The seven broods (all in RADNOR) is the highest count in Wales since 2006. Breeding records have come from nine vice-counties in the last 10 years, but rarely from more than three in a single year, so many must go unrecorded on infrequently-visited upland water bodies. Breeding season: RADNOR: At least seven pairs hatched young; BRECON: A pair possibly bred at Llangorse; CAERNARFON: A pair possibly bred on Llyn Conwy; ANGLESEY: 12 pairs at RSPB Valley Wetlands, 2 males at RSPB Malltraeth Marsh.

Wintering Teal numbers have fallen over the last 25 years (WeBS alerts, BTO/ JNCC/RSPB), but the number of flocks >100 birds was at its highest in 2014. Counts of 300+ birds recorded at least once during the year shown in table:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
GWENT												
Newport WR	63	1124	82	2			1	1	33	55	31	120
Peterstone Pill	721	705	286	21		17	41	177	347	410	902	720
GOWER												
Whiteford	200	390	2						94	120	200	
PEMBROKE												
Cleddau	2065	924	406						85	536	1063	1756
CEREDIGION												
Dyfi est.	496	161	45			4	15	58	195	939	658	499
MEIRIONNYDD												
Broadwater	460	34	170							11	12	
Glaslyn/Dwyrdd	1025	206	57						114	622	350	150
ANGLESEY												
Malltraeth	806	590	130	1	1	2	13		71	545	925	
DENBIGH												
RSPB Conwy	106	22	22	3	2		19	24	320	336		271
FLINT												
Point of Ayr	450	40	57					3	100	150	150	550
RSPB Oakenholt	307	103	50	2				60	800	3000	300	
Connah's Quay	66	72	58				2	156	50	80	440	

Counts of 300+ elsewhere: GOWER: 300 at Landimore on 5th Jan; PEMBROKE: 600 at Castlemartin Corse on 8th Jan, 761 at Hook/Sprinkle Pill and 300 at Millin Pill on 18th Jan, 450 on River Cresswell on 20th Jan, 500 at Slebech on 10th Feb, 450 at Castlemartin Corse on 12th Nov, 590 at Hook/Sprinkle Pill on 5th Dec, 300 at Landshipping on 27th Dec; CEREDIGION: 3,500 at RSPB Ynys-hir on 29th Oct; MONTGOMERY: Peak counts 900+ on 9th Jan and 1,000+ on 25th Nov; CAERNARFON: 420 at Llanengan on 15th Jan; FLINT: 700 at Flint on 30th Nov.

GREEN-WINGED TEAL *Anas carolinensis*

CORHWYADEN ASGELL-WERDD

(A) Scarce visitor from North America, fewer than 50 records in Wales. On WRP list

GWENT: A male at Peterstone Gout on 7th - 19th Feb; E. GLAMORGAN: A male at Kenfig Saltmarsh from 25th March to 8th April was also recorded in GOWER on 27th March; PEMBROKE: A male at Newgale Marsh from 2013, joined by a second male, on 19th Jan - 1st April; ANGLESEY: Male near RSPB South Stack on 17th-21st April.

MALLARD *Anas platyrhynchos***HWYADEN WYLLT**

(C) Common and widespread breeding resident, abundant passage migrant and winter visitor to all counties. Wales – Amber listed.

Breeding season, under-recorded: GWENT: 63 broods; E. GLAMORGAN: Bred at 20 sites; GOWER: Bred at 35 sites; CARMARTHEN: 28 broods at Penclacwydd; CEREDIGION: Bred at five sites; MEIRIONNYDD: Single pair at each of four sites; CAERNARFON: 15 broods at four sites; ANGLESEY: 14 nests or broods at three sites; DENBIGH: Bred at ten sites; FLINT: Bred at three sites.

The long-term decline in wintering Mallards in Britain has been well-reported, and the trend in Wales is similar though less substantial than Scotland or England: the WeBS Alert index has fallen by 36% in the last 25 years (BTO/JNCC/RSPB). Counts of 200+ birds recorded at least once during the year:

	<i>J</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>A</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>J</i>	<i>J</i>	<i>A</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>O</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>D</i>
GWENT												
Newport Wetlands	234	203	108	60	84	205	246	151	254	193	110	113
Undy	36	12	2	9	11	84	30	201	220	148	79	146
Nedern Wetland	124	29	22	37	55	25	5	3			263	40
*MB Canal 1			115						215			
*MB Canal 2	211	185	112						120	179	224	174
E GLAMORGAN												
Cardiff Bay	28	47	45	35	8	77	205	149	63	75	56	35
CARMARTHEN												
Penc'wydd	83	63	64	46	33	70	136	191	36	114	99	265
Taf	16	16	4						282	16		62
PEMBROKE												
Cleddau	115	181	50						136	235	207	149
CEREDIGION												
Dyfi Est.	561	267	64		159		145	232	206	487	287	170
BRECON												
Ffordd Fawr	24	27	49						325	350	95	125
MEIRIONNYDD												
Pont Briwet	45	30	3	9	21	250	450	300		200	100	16
CAERNARFON												
Y Foryd	30	16	18	38	87	112	120	270	210	133	38	60
Traeth Lafan	232	173	132	36	28	250	143	400	335	297	270	284
FLINT												
Oakenholt M	20	20	11	10	12	100	200	600	350	10	25	
Connah's Quay	26	28	5	4	116	151	270	80	4	6	11	

*GWENT: Monmouth and Brecon Canal – section 1, 14 Locks to Old Cwmbran; section 2, 14 Locks to Pontywaun.

Counts of 200+ elsewhere: RADNOR: 375 at Glasbury/Lowes in Aug/Sept were released for shooting; MONTGOMERY: 200 at Dolydd Hafren on 14th Dec; CAERNARFON: 210 at Llyn Glasfryn on 30th June.

PINTAIL *Anas acuta*

HWYADEN LOSTFAIN

(B) *Occasional passage migrant and locally abundant winter visitor to some counties, but scarce inland. Wales – Amber listed.*

There have been significant declines on the Burry Inlet and Dee Estuary SPAs, both notified for their wintering Pintails, but they remain the two most internationally-important sites in Britain (WeBS alerts, BTO/JNCC/RSPB). The number of sites reaching the threshold of 80+ birds to be listed below is the highest for a decade.

	<i>J</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>A</i>	<i>M</i>		<i>A</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>O</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>D</i>
GWENT											
Peterstone GW	3	4	13						18		104
Peterstone Pill	1	4	43	4				97	27	111	158
E. GLAMORGAN											
Rhymney Gt W	2	21						11	3		230
Rhymney est			73						80	120	125
GOWER											
Whiteford	180	10						580	66	427	
Weobley	520							180	840	960	
Llanrhidian	9170	2110						6	30	300	732
Wernffrwd	640	350	5								501
Penclawdd	460	71	7					60	34	1250	450
CARMARTHEN											
Penclacwydd	300	240			2		1	215	41	116	370
CEREDIGION											
Dyfi est.	177	59						10	276	188	168
MEIRIONNYDD											
Glaslyn/Dwryrd	154	80							122	320	300
CAERNARFON											
Foryd	160	51	8					14	50	30	120
Traeth Lafan	129	48	1		1			25	80	225	131
FLINT											
Dee estuary	500	200		32	2		520	106	373	70	150

Counts of 80+ elsewhere: GOWER: 550 at Landimore on 5th Jan; MEIRIONNYDD: 200 at Aberdyfi on 18th Jan, 170 on the Dyfi estuary on 19th Feb; ANGLESEY: 120 at Malltraeth Cob on 21st Jan; DENBIGH: 1,115 in the lower Dee Valley on 16th Jan, comprising 800 at Trevalyn Meadows, 280 at Worthenbury and 35 at Ridleywood, 120 at Ridleywood on 20th Dec.

GARGANEY *Anas querquedula*

HWYADEN ADDFAIN

(A) Recorded in small numbers on passage. There have been only five confirmed Welsh breeding attempts and only one since 1991. Wales – Amber listed.

The 63 birds reported here is considerably higher than the ten-year average of 36 birds. More multiple records than usual, and perhaps a possibility of breeding in Gower and Anglesey.

All records: GWENT: Up to four males, Newport Wetlands, 18th-29th April, then 1-2 until 10th May, one at Goldcliff Lagoons on 25th July, one at Ynys-y-fro Res. on 6th Oct; E. GLAMORGAN: A male at Kenfig Saltmarsh on 2nd-8th April, five males and two females on River Ogmore on 16th April, a male at Kenfig saltmarsh on 27th-30th April and a female there on 27th, a pair at Cosmeston Lakes on 2nd May; GOWER: A male at Kenfig rivermouth reed beds on 2nd April, 4th and 21st May, two female-types there on several dates between 18th Aug. and 9th Sept, a pair at Llanrhidian on 16th April and a juv. there on 3rd Aug, 2 imm. there on 5th Aug, one there on 14th Nov; CARMARTHEN: A female at Penclacwydd on 29th April, a male at Bevan's Pond on 3rd May. All other records were males from Penclacwydd: one on 4th-17th May and 4th-9th June, one on 16th Aug, two on 17th Aug, three on 23rd-30th Aug and one on several dates in Sept, up to 25th; PEMBROKE: A male at Marloes Mere on 18th-25th May, a female/juvenile on Skokholm on 23rd Aug, then at Marloes Mere on 27th Aug-13th Sept, presumed same on Skomer on 12th-15th Sept, a female at Bosherton on 1st Nov and a female at Newgale on 9th Nov; CEREDIGION: Two on Teifi Marshes on 2nd May, one at RSPB Ynys-hir on 9th May; BRECON: A pair at SCM Llangorse on 11th May; MONTGOMERY: A male at Llyn Coed-y-Dinas on 8th May; MEIRIONNYDD: A male and three females on the Dwyryd Est. on 26th-30th April and again on 31st Aug, one on Afon Wnion, Dolgellau, on 9th May; CAERNARFON: A male at Cors Geirch on 24th-25th April and two males at Aber Ogwen on 8th June; ANGLESEY: A male on Llyn Penrhyn on 17th April, a pair at RSPB South Stack on 25th-29th April, one at Llyn Maelog on 30th April and two at RSPB Mallaeth Marsh from 20th May throughout the breeding season, to 8th Sept.; DENBIGH: One at RSPB Conwy on 11th Sept - 2nd Oct; FLINT: One at Shotwick Fields/ RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands on 25th May.

SHOVELER *Anas clypeata*

HWYADEN LYDANBIG

(C) Locally common winter visitor and passage migrant. Regular breeding species on Anglesey and occasionally elsewhere in Wales. Wales – Amber listed.

Breeding season: GWENT: Two broods at Newport Wetlands; GOWER: Brood of three at Llanrhidian; PEMBROKE: Two pairs bred on Skomer, but failed to fledge young; ANGLESEY: Breeding suspected at RSPB Valley Wetlands; FLINT: A brood at Shotton Paper Mill.

Counts of 50+ at least once during the year:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
GWENT												
Peterstone Pill									15	140	90	57
Newport Wet	160	157	78	67	12	12	14	27	142	131	162	171
CARMARTHEN												
Penclacwydd	114	22	21	10	2	4		10	28	68	30	40
ANGLESEY												
Malltraeth Marsh	90	132	80	3	6		3			47	69	
FLINT												
Shotton Paper										97	111	42

Counts of 50+ elsewhere: GWENT: 78 at Caldicott Pill in March; E. GLAMORGAN: 76 at Cardiff Heliport in Jan; GOWER: 220 at Salthouse Point on 20th Jan, 209 at Pwll y Froga on 3rd Feb, 302 at Wernffrwd on 7th Feb; DENBIGH: 90+ at Fenn's Moss on 28th Feb.

POCHARD *Aythya ferina*

HWYADEN BENGGOCH

(C) Resident breeding species in small numbers in several counties, otherwise a declining winter visitor and passage migrant. Wales – Red-listed.

The breeding season saw the highest proven count for many years: GWENT: Five broods at two sites, including first ever at Llanwern Steelworks; CARMARTHEN: Six broods at Penclacwydd; ANGLESEY: Eight broods at RSPB Valley Wetlands

Wintering Pochard numbers have fallen dramatically in recent decades, with 52% fewer than in the mid-1980s (WeBS Alerts, BTO/JNCC/RSPB). An example of this decline is that 2014 was the first year since the 1930s that East Glamorgan had no count >100 birds; as recently as 1987 that more than 1,000 Pochards were counted on the Rhymney estuary, for example. In 2015, the IUCN 'upgraded' Pochard to Vulnerable status in light of new information about the scale of the decline across its range. Monthly max. (>20 birds) at just nine sites, cf. average 15 sites in 2005-12.

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
GWENT												
Newport	34	35	34	40	11	6	11	9		11	1	9
Ynysfro Res.	67	10								15	38	20
E. GLAMORGAN												
Lisvane Res.	38	39	13					15		12	17	28
Cosmeston	3	36	18	2					1	7	8	31
Kenfig Pool	13			5						1		24
GOWER												
Eglwys Nunydd	17							15	25	60	35	108
Fendrod Lake	25	10	12		2						3	9

Counts of 20+ elsewhere were: ANGLESEY: 32 at RSPB Valley Wetlands in May, 20 at Llyn Coron on 28th July.

TUFTED DUCK *Aythya fuligula*

HWYADEN GOPOG

(C) Resident breeding species in small numbers in several Welsh counties and a locally common winter visitor. Wales – Amber-listed.

Breeding: GWENT: 10 pairs at five sites; E. GLAMORGAN: One pair bred at each of four sites; GOWER: Five broods at four sites; CARMARTHEN: 10 broods at Penclacwydd; CEREDIGION: Single broods at three sites; BRECON: A brood at Brechfa Pool; MEIRIONNYDD: Pairs at three sites, with two broods on Llyn Trawsfynydd and three on Llyn Tegid; CAERNARFON: One confirmed pair, at Hafan-y-Môr, Pwllheli; ANGLESEY: 23 broods at RSPB Valley Wetlands, also bred at Cemlyn.

Wintering numbers in Wales have increased in recent years, in contrast to declines in Scotland and Northern Ireland, and a stable position in England (WeBS Alerts, BTO/JNCC/RSPB). Sites holding >50 birds at least once during the year are included below.

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
GWENT												
Bryn Bach	70	23			3	4		6				62
Pant-yr-eos	6	6	8	7	2	2	13	18	189	17	21	16
Newport W	38	75	84	71	70	24	12	20	4	24	4	34
Ynysfro Res	75	37	25	11	5	7	24	39	33	51	59	57
E. GLAMORGAN												
Bute East Dk	56	43	36	11						22	37	51
Lisvane Res	99	75	62			14		50	60	43	21	106
Llanishen R	2	14	10						7	27	37	51
Roath Park L	107	114	43	5		4				3	29	137
Cardiff Bay	195	145	87	70	4	17	30	27	95	190	105	155
Cosmeston	220	227	118	10	2	4	5	11	43	80	120	159
GOWER												
Egl Nun Res	116		48	8				127	78	105	67	103
CARMARTHEN												
Penclacwydd	70	37	67	33	27	29	26	12	4	20	44	76
BRECON												
Llangorse	279	201	120	15					20	87	315	285
Talybont	27	5	50	7		28	67	55	19	6	1	
FLINT												
Shotwick	19	6		23	12	19	24	23	39	66	88	
Shotton Mill					26		73	110	85	79	52	64
Ddol Res.	44		58							37	41	38

Counts of 50+ elsewhere were: GWENT: 106 at Newport South Dock on 3rd March; RADNOR: 91 at Llanbwchllyn in Oct.

SCAUP *Aythya marila*

HWYADEN BENDDU

(B) Scarce and local winter visitor, also recorded on passage. Wales – Amber listed.

Never abundant, Scaup numbers in Wales remain way below levels of the mid-1980s (WeBS Alerts, BTO/JNCC/RSPB). This year's peak month count of 15 in March was well below even the 2005-13 average of 43 birds. The Burry Inlet, which as recently as 1996/97 had a three-figure peak count, recorded none this year.

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
E. GLAMORGAN									1	1		
GOWER	1	1	1									
CARMARTHEN			3									
CEREDIGION												1
BRECON	1	1	1							1	1	1
MEIRIONNYDD			1									
CAERNARFON			1						1	1	1	1
ANGLESEY												
Inland Sea	1	1	1									1
elsewhere				1					1	1	1	
DENBIGH	3	5	7	1	1	1		1	1	1	2	

LESSER SCAUP *Aythya affinis*

HWYADEN BENDDU LEIAF

(A) Rare vagrant from North America. Five previous records in Wales.

E. GLAMORGAN: The returning male at Cosmeston CP and Cardiff Bay from 2013 to 16th Feb. and again from 4th Sept. into 2015; BRECON: A male at Llangorse Lake, 7th Oct into 2015 was a county first, a bird marked with nasal saddle at Sao Jacinto Dunes, Portugal on 21st Dec. 2013.

EIDER *Somateria mollissima*

HWYADEN FWYTHBLU

(C) Generally scarce non-breeding resident and winter visitor. Wintering numbers fell dramatically in early 1990s and have fluctuated since. Breeding took place for the first time in 1997. Wales - Amber-listed.

Breeding season: CAERNARFON: At least five pairs bred in an area east of Bangor, the highest total for Wales in a single year.

The WeBS Alerts (BTO/JNCC/RSPB) has issued a High alert for Eiders wintering in Wales, with a 74% decline in the last 25 years. Peak counts in the Burry Inlet and Broadwater have fallen, but those in the Menai Strait have increased in tandem with the establishment of regular breeding. The monthly max. in the principal wintering sites:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
GOWER												
Whiteford	49	53	46	6	18	14	28	31	32	24	41	2
Blackpill		3	4	4	2	9	1	1	1		1	
MEIRIONNYDD												
Broadwater		2	7	17	2	7	9	14		21		
CAERNARFON												
Traeth Lafan	4		7	4	22	29	28	35	25	1	2	1

Other notable records: MEIRIONNYDD: 37 on Glaslyn/Dwryrd estuary in Feb;
 ANGLESEY: 60 off Penmon Point on 25th March.

LONG-TAILED DUCK *Clangula hyemalis* **HWYADEN GYNFFON-HIR**
(B) Scarce winter visitor and passage migrant. Rare inland. Wales – Amber-listed.

The last three years has seen a small revival in the numbers around Wales but the long-term outlook is not good, with a 65% decline in the Baltic Sea (since 1992/93) contributing to the species' global status to Vulnerable.

Summary of records for each county:

	J	F	M	A	M	A	S	O	N	D
E. GLAMORGAN		2	2	1	1				1	2
GOWER				1						1
PEMBROKE									1	1
CEREDIGION			2	1	1			1	2	
BRECON									1	
MEIRIONNYDD	10	12	2							1
CAERNARFON	16	11	4				1		3	6
ANGLESEY	2	3	4	3					1	1
FLINT										1

COMMON SCOTER *Melanitta nigra* **MOR-HWYADEN DDU**
(C) A locally abundant visitor, recorded all year round but mainly during the winter months. The distribution is predominantly coastal, although it is regular in small numbers on inland waters on passage. Wales – Amber listed.

The WeBS Alerts (BTO/JNCC/RSPB) has issued a High alert for Common Scoter wintering in Wales, owing to a 51% decline in the short-term. Carmarthen Bay SPA remains the most important wintering area in the British Isles for this species, usually holding over 30,000 birds, but cuts in the marine monitoring budget of Natural Resources Wales meant that no co-ordinated count was made of this flock.

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
GOWER												
Burry Holms-Mewslade	6000	4820	4790	60			22	1	23	11	460	227
CEREDIGION												
Off Borth			100	40	400	400			70			6
MEIRIONNYDD												
Tremadog Bay	570	970	460							320	140	1480
CAERNARFON												
Rhos Point	1000	30	500	650	240	23	100	150	240	650		20000
Morfa Bychan/ Black Rock	570	970	460		15					320		1480
DENBIGH												
Rhos Point-Towyn	10,000	10,000	3,000	3,000	<100	<100	2000	2000	2000	3800		20000

Other notable records: CARMARTHEN: 4,000 from Telpyn Point on 19th Jan; PEMBROKE: 1,000 off Amroth on 12th Jan, 2,777 off Strumble Head during July-Nov; MONTGOMERY: 90 at Llyn Efyrynwy on 19th June; CAERNARFON: 4,000 off Llanfairfechan on 26th May. 2,000 off Penmaenmawr on 8th and 12th June were unusual, in both number and season; ANGLESEY: 241 west past Point Lynas in four hours on 26th July, 900 off Red Wharf Bay on 25th Nov, 250 off Benllech on 1st Dec; FLINT: 12,000 off Point of Ayr on 19th Jan.

SURF SCOTER *Melanitta perspicillata*

MOR-HWYADEN YR EWYN

(A) A rare trans-Atlantic visitor to Wales, with around 60 records. On WRP list

The regular sightings off the north coast in recent winters make it increasingly difficult to maintain an accurate total of the numbers recorded in Wales.

All records: PEMBROKE: A male off Amroth on 12th Jan; CAERNARFON: The female off Black Rock from 2013 remained to 12th Jan. Three off Rhos Point on 8th Dec were part of the DENBIGH aggregation; DENBIGH: Up to seven off Pensarn from turn of the year to the last spring record on 17th March, then present from 12th Sept to year end, with nine reported off Old Colwyn on 16th Dec (not all reported to the Welsh Records Panel).

VELVET SCOTER *Melanitta fusca*

MOR-HWYADEN Y GOGLEDD

(A) A scarce and local winter visitor, regular in small numbers to some coastal counties. Occasionally recorded on passage. Rare inland. Wales – Amber-listed.

Decreases around the British coast and the Baltic has led to the international population estimate being revised down by 55%, and the species' listing as Endangered by IUCN/BirdLife International. The month peak, of 12 in December, is the lowest since 2008.

All records: GOWER: Two in Rhossili Bay on 2nd Jan and three there on 19th; E. GLAMORGAN: One off Porthcawl on 3rd Nov; PEMBROKE: One at Strumble Head on 22nd Sept, one off St David's Head on 15th-19th Nov, one off Amroth on 24th Dec; CEREDIGION:

One at Ynyslas on 5th March, one off Llansantffraed on 23rd Nov; MEIRIONNYDD: One, Tremadog Bay, on 9th March, a 1st winter male at Aber Dysynni on 4th May, a male here on 13th July, with a female on 14th; CAERNARFON: A male off Morfa Bychan/Black Rock on 1st and 9th March, a male off Llanfairfechan on 16th March and 25th-26th May and two off Penmaenmawr on the same date, with one off Pen on 4th June. Three males passed Bardsey on 15th Oct, one off Rhos Point on 9th Nov, two off Black Rock on 26th Nov, one off Criccieth on 7th Dec and two on 14th; ANGLESEY: A male off Red Wharf Bay on 23rd Jan, one off Benllech on 1st Dec; DENBIGH: Up to six off Pensarn-Llanddulas during Jan - March, one off Llanddulas on 17th July and up to 8 during Sept.-Dec., peaking on 28th Dec.

GOLDENEYE *Bucephala clangula*

HWYADEN LYGAD-AUR

(C) Locally common winter visitor and passage migrant.

The downward trend that started in the late 1990s continues, with a 33% decline in Wales in the medium term (BTO/JNCC/RSPB). The number of sites meeting the minimal threshold of 10 birds has also fallen by a third in just 10 years. In the 1990s, Traeth Lafan regularly held over 100 Goldeneyes, and in 1994/95, a peak of 465.

Monthly max. counts at the main sites (>10) were:

	J	F	M	A		S	O	N	D
E. GLAMORGAN									
Ogmore Est.	38	38	30					9	16
Kenfig Pool	6	15	11					4	
Rhaslas Pond	10	9						6	
GOWER									
Eglwys Nunydd	11		6	1			3	14	7
BRECON									
Llangorse L.	82	67	74	3				45	57
Talybont Res.	4	5	16					7	
CAERNARFON									
Foryd	9	9	10	1				6	10
Traeth Lafan	38	51	23	20				29	30

Counts of 10+ elsewhere: GWENT: 10 on the River Usk at Llanllowell in Feb; CARMARTHEN: 14 at Penclacwydd in Feb; RADNOR: 14 at Dol-y-Mynach Res. in Feb; MONTGOMERY: 16 on the Upper Dyfi estuary on 1st March; DENBIGH: 11 at Hanmer Mere on 18th Feb.

SMEW *Mergus albellus*

LLEIAN WEN

(A) Scarce winter visitor, subject to cold weather influxes from the Continent. Wales – Amber-listed.

CEREDIGION: One redhead at RSPB Ynys-hir on 8th and 21st Feb, 17th and 20th March. It

was also seen at Glan Dyfi, MEIRIONNYDD, on the first date.

RED-BREASTED MERGANSER *M. serrator*

HWYADEN FRONGOCH

(C) Locally common winter visitor, particularly to the north Wales coast. Small numbers breed, chiefly in the northwest. Wales – Amber-listed.

Breeding season: MEIRIONNYDD: Up to 20 pairs at six sites, but no broods seen; ANGLESEY: Six broods at Cemlyn and one brood on the Inland Sea; FLINT: A brood on the River Clwyd east of St Asaph. Breeding is presumed greatly under-recorded (breeding season records came from 99 tetrads during the 2008-12 *North Wales Breeding Atlas*).

Numbers recorded by WeBS have fallen sharply and the index for both Britain and Wales now lies at low levels not seen since the mid-1970s (BTO/JNCC/RSPB). Monthly max. (>20) are shown below.

	J	F	M.	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
CARMARTHEN												
Gwendraeth	20	12									2	1
CEREDIGION												
Dyfi est.	10	10	12		2				10	22	25	18
MEIRIONNYDD												
Broadwater		2	4	10					22			
Glaslyn/Dwyrdd	10	20	5							17	37	27
Mawddach	14		11							23	10	19
CAERNARFON												
Foryd	8	8	29	2	5	6	12	2	5	12	9	6
Traeth Lafan	20	16	25	27	16	45	85	78	55	45	40	32
DENBIGH												
RSPB Conwy	3	5	26	9	2					4		15

Counts of 20+ elsewhere: DENBIGH: 20 at Pensarn on 19th Jan and 24 at Kinmel Bay on 23rd Nov.

GOOSANDER *M. merganser*

HWYADEN DDANHEDDOG

(C) Breeding resident on most Welsh rivers in mid and north Wales, the breeding population slowly expanding. In winter, numbers are augmented by birds dispersing from farther north.

After falling during the last decade, numbers monitored by WeBS have started to rise again, in Wales more significantly than elsewhere in Britain (BTO/JNCC/RSPB). Most Goosanders wintering in Wales are thought to be British breeders. Fewer breeding pairs reported than in recent years, but coverage is far from complete.

Breeding season: GWENT: At least five broods on the Usk and two on the Monnow; GOWER: Single broods on the Tawe and Afan, and two broods on the Neath; CARMARTHEN: Broods seen at two locations along the Tywi; CEREDIGION: Five pairs/broods, mostly on the Ystwyth; BRECON: Five broods, mostly on rivers, with breeding also suspected at five other locations; MONTGOMERY: Considered to breed on "most rivers and lakes"; MEIRIONNYDD: Pairs at 10+ sites, but only three broods recorded; CAERNARFON: At least five broods from four sites, but probable breeding at another five sites; DENBIGH: One brood, at Trefor Uchaf; FLINT: Probably bred on the Clwyd.

Monthly max. (>20) shown below.

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
CARMARTHEN												
Dryswyn/Cilsan	7	1	6	8	1		23	19			7	2
CEREDIGION												
Dyfi Est	1	2					21	18	7	7	3	2
MEIRIONNYDD												
Talyllyn	8	4	4			23					15	14
CAERNARFON												
Traeth Lafan	5	5	4	12	23	38	110	93	29	4	7	10

Counts of 20+ elsewhere: GWENT: 20 at Ponthir Res. in Nov; GOWER: 33 roosted at Upper Lliw Res. on 11th Jan; PEMBROKE: 24 at Bosherton on 23rd Dec; CEREDIGION: 21 at Llyn Fanod on 19th Jan; RADNOR: 25 at Glasbury on 18th Aug; MONTGOMERY: 43 (inc. young) at Dolydd Hafren on 17th May, 51 on the Upper Dyfi estuary on 16th July; MEIRIONNYDD: Post-breeding peak count of 64 on Llyn Tegid on 17th Aug, 37 on The Broadwater on 23rd Aug; FLINT: 25 at Fagl Lane GP on 23rd Jan, counts of up to 25 on the Clwyd Estuary in July and Aug.

Surveys of the Rivers Wye and Usk, BRECON, found fewer birds than in previous years, perhaps related to increased levels of killing. Co-ordinated counts on the entire length of the Usk, GWENT, yielded 60-62 birds in late March/early April and 57-61 birds in late April/early May.

RUDDY DUCK *Oxyura jamaicensis*

HWYADEN GOCH

(B) *Rare breeding species, mostly restricted to a small number on Anglesey by culling; elsewhere a scarce winter visitor.*

ANGLESEY: For the second year, a single male at RSPB Valley Lakes on various dates between 4th April and 1st Sept; FLINT: Five at Shotton Paper Mill on 14th Aug, one remaining until 12th Oct.

The UK Ruddy Duck population is around 30 males and 10 females (March 2015), down from an estimated 4,400 in September 2005 as a result of an eradication programme by

Defra, part of an EU-wide project to remove the threat to White-headed Ducks in Europe by 2015. Only three or four broods were raised in the UK in 2014.

QUAIL *Coturnix coturnix*

SOFLIAR

(A) A scarce and irregular breeding species, irruptive in some years; scarce passage migrant. Wales – Amber listed.

All records, single calling males unless stated: E. GLAMORGAN: Sker Farm on 9th July, photographed in a garden in Grangetown, Cardiff, on 18th July; GOWER: Paviland Manor on 18th May; PEMBROKE: Skokholm on 17th May, three between Little Haven and St Bride's on 3rd June, Harmony on 19th June, Boncath on 29th July, Skomer on 6th Aug; RADNOR: New Radnor on 4th June, Clyro on 1st-7th Sept; CAERNARFON: Two calling at different locations on the Migneint on 12th and 25th June; ANGLESEY: Llyn Rhos-ddu on 3rd May; Alaw estuary on 3rd July; DENBIGH: Two in different areas of Mynydd Hiraethog and three at Alwen Res., all on 22nd June.

RED-LEGGED PARTRIDGE *Alectoris rufa*

PETRISEN GOESGOCH

(C) Populations, in majority of areas where this species is found, now probably maintained by release schemes.

Populations maintained by releases for shooting.

RED GROUSE *Lagopus lagopus*

GRUGIAR

(B) Breeding resident on heather uplands, declining in most areas. Wales – Red listed.

Presumed under-recorded. GWENT: Recorded from eight sites, with highest numbers on The Bloreng (21 on 4th Jan), breeding confirmed at five sites; E. GLAMORGAN: Three at one site on 21st Sept; CARMARTHEN: One site, peak count five on 2nd March; CEREDIGION: Broods near Cwmystwyth and Plynlimon; BRECON: Breeding confirmed (two broods) in the Black Mountains for first time in some years; MONTGOMERY: Recorded from northern Plynlimon, with breeding confirmed at Llyn Glaslyn and Llyn Efyrrnwy; MEIRIONNYDD: Multiple records from the Berwyns, Arenigs and Rhinogs, including seven broods; CAERNARFON: Records throughout the year from northern Carneddau and the Migneint (including two broods), from Moel Siabod and Waunfawr in April and two at Parc Newydd on 22nd Dec; DENBIGH: Counts throughout the year from Ruabon Mountain, with a peak of 10 on 5th April; up to six at Cefn Coch, four on Berwyn Mountain, and single records from four other sites.

BLACK GROUSE *Tetrao tetrix*

GRUGIAR DDU

(C) *Breeding resident on moorlands of north and mid-Wales, recent increase in numbers. Wales – Red listed.*

Lek surveys organised by RSPB Cymru, Natural Resources Wales, Denbighshire County Council and Cofnod found 328 lekking males, up from 249 in 2013, the highest since co-ordinated counts began in 1997. The monitoring area excluded Llanbrynmair, MONTGOMERY, this year owing to access restrictions. Lekking males: MONTGOMERY: Six at RSPB Llyn Efyrrwy; MEIRIONNYDD: 13 in the Migneint, nine on Palé Moor/Aberhinant/Syrior; DENBIGH: Nine in Clocaenog Forest, 27 on Moel Famau, 46 in the North Berwyn, 199 on Ruabon Moor (largest lek 23 birds), nine on Llandegla Moor and 11 at Llantysilio.

Additional records reported to county recorders during breeding season: MONTGOMERY: Single at Bugeilyn in March; MEIRIONNYDD: Male at Hafod Uchel on 27th May; FLINT: One at Penycloddiau in May. Outside the breeding season, up to four birds at 13 sites in MEIRIONNYDD; three males near Penmachno, CAERNARFON on 13th Nov.

GREY PARTRIDGE *Perdix perdix*

PETRISEN

(B) *Almost extinct as a breeding species in much of Wales. Populations, in most areas now probably maintained by release schemes. Wales – Red listed.*

E. GLAMORGAN: One at Ty'n-y-Caeau Farm on 13th April, six at Cwm Nash on 5th Sept; GOWER: One near Overton on 6th Dec, thought to be of released stock; BRECON: One in Bwlch on 8th March was first county record for 10 years; MONTGOMERY: Two at Abermule on 1st April; CAERNARFON: Immature near Rowen on 14th Aug.; DENBIGH: Two at Gwaenyog Bach on 16th March, two at Plas-yn-lal on 10th April and three at Llanfair D.C. on 2nd Dec.

PHEASANT *Phasianus colchicus*

FFESANT

(D) *A locally common breeding resident, widespread throughout Wales.*

Population in many areas is maintained by releases, but few records included in county reports.

RED-THROATED DIVER *Gavia stellata*

TROCHYDD GYDDFGOCH

(B) *Winter visitor and passage migrant, regularly recorded off-shore, sometimes in large concentrations. Rare inland. Wales – Amber listed.*

The largest numbers are usually in Cardigan Bay and off the north coast, but numbers were fairly low this year. Numbers have increased at many sites over the last twenty years. Counts at the main sites, with 20 or more birds at least once, were:

	J	F	M	A	M	June	July	A	S	O	N	D
CAERNARFON												
Traeth Lafan	11	15	41	15	1		0	0	3	6	70	5
Rhos Point	3	31	6	6					1	2	68	9
ANGLESEY												
Red Wharf Bay	8	16									30	

Counts of 20+ elsewhere or other interesting records were: GOWER: 29 off Burry Holm on 11th Jan; CARMARTHEN: c.40 between Amroth and Marros on 28th Dec; PEMBROKE: Maximum count was of 40 at Amroth on 28th Dec. 73 birds passed Strumble Head on 22 dates, max. 15 on 8th Jan. In the winter period up to Christmas not recorded in the usual numbers in Fishguard Harbour, but numbers in Carmarthen and St. Bride's Bays similar to usual; MEIRIONNYDD: 56 off Morfa Harlech on 29th Nov; ANGLESEY: 24 off Traeth Lligwy on 18th Feb, 22 off Benllech on 18th Feb. In the autumn, 20 past Point Lynas on 17th Nov, with 23 there on 2nd Dec; DENBIGH: Seven reports of 30 or more, with max at least 100 off Pensarn beach on 1st March. In autumn, at least 35 off Towyn on 15th Nov.

The last record of the first winter period was one off the Great Orme CAERNARFON on 26th May, with the first record of the autumn a single between Cemlyn and Carmel ANGLESEY on 31st Aug.

BLACK-THROATED DIVER *Gavia arctica*

TROCHYDD GYDDFDDU

(A) *Winter visitor and passage migrant, recorded in small numbers annually. Wales – Amber listed.*

This is the least common of the three regular divers, and no clear trend is evident in Wales. E. GLAMORGAN: One at Barry Docks on 7th - 8th Feb, with 2 there from 13th to 15th. Cosmeston Lakes CP hosted a single bird from 7th to 23rd March; GOWER: A 1st winter bird between the pier and Knab Rock on 19th Oct; PEMBROKE: Strumble Head had five single birds recorded on 5th Feb, 2nd April, 30th April and 3rd and 19th Nov. Three off St. David's Head on 19th Jan, with two there on 22nd Feb and there were two off Broad Haven (N) on 1st March; CEREDIGION: One bird seen at Aberystwyth on the 30th March was the only record; MEIRIONNYDD: One off Traeth Bach on 16th Feb and one off Borth y Gest on 31st Oct; CAERNARFON: Singles at Caernarfon on 8th Jan, off Bangor Pier on 21st Feb and at Afonwen on 7th March. In the second winter period, there was one at Borth-y-gest on 31st Oct, one off Llanfairfechan on 9th and 27th Nov and one off Rhos Point on 16th Nov. Bardsey recorded singles on 13th Sept, 20th and 21st Oct and 8th Nov; ANGLESEY: Two together past Point Lynas on 5th Nov; DENBIGH: 4 records, all from the coastal area between Colwyn Bay and Towyn and all were of singles, except for 2 at Pensarn on 3rd March and again on 9th Nov.

GREAT NORTHERN DIVER *Gavia immer***TROCHYDD MAWR**

(B) Winter visitor and passage migrant, recorded offshore in small numbers annually. Recorded from inland waters more frequently than other divers. Wales – Amber listed.

The species is most common off the north coast, with Caernarfon Bay holding nationally important numbers. The latest spring record was two off Manorbier PEMBROKE on 25th May and the earliest autumn record one off Bardsey CAERNARFON on 24th Sept. Approx. monthly totals for each county:

	J	F	M	A	M	Jun	Jul	A	S	O	N	D
E.GLAMORGAN	1	2			2					1	3	2
CARMARTHEN	2	1		1							2	1
CEREDIGION	2	1	2	2						1	1	2
MEIRIONNYDD												
Llyn Tegid	2	1	2	2	1	-	-	-	-	0	1*	1
Elsewhere	2	2	0	0	-	-	-	-	0	1	1	2
CAERNARFON												
Caernarfon Bay	7	4	10	8	33						34	33
Foryd	2	1	6									2
Traeth Lafan	3	5	3	6	1						1	1
Elsewhere	6	6	4	5	6				1	6	7	4
ANGLESEY												
Holyhead Bay	8	4	2									
Elsewhere	12	29	19	7	1					2	20	5

* A 2nd year bird found dead on 9th Nov. This year's records continue a trend of regular records at Llyn Tegid in recent years.

Other vice-counties: GOWER: One at Eglwys Nunydd res 15th Jan - 26th March and again on 10th Nov. 1-2 at 16 sites, mainly off Gower. Max 6 off Burry Holm on 12th Jan, 3 off Port Eynon Pt on 22nd Jan, ad at Queen's Dock on 10th Jan and, unusually, 2 sp off Mumbles Head on 10th May; PEMBROKE: At Strumble Head 22 were recorded on nine dates max six on 19th Dec. Elsewhere, in St. Bride's Bay max five at Little Haven on 1st March and in the Cleddau max. three at Dale on 6th Dec. Ramsey recorded max four on 12th Dec and Skomer had three on 14th March; DENBIGH: 14 records, all from the coastal area between Colwyn Bay and Towyn and all of single birds, except for 2 at Pensarn on 3rd March and again on 9th Nov.

FULMAR *Fulmarus glacialis***ADERYN-DRYGIN Y GRAIG**

(C) A numerous species, breeding in all coastal counties except Gwent. Frequent offshore in most months.

The Welsh breeding population increased up to about 1996 then was stable until about 2005. A marked decline between 2006 and 2009 was followed by another period of stability

(JNCC). The count unit is the Apparently Occupied Site (AOS): E. GLAMORGAN: Cwm Nash cliffs were the only proved breeding site with max 15 birds on 20th June and 6 juvs on 16th Aug. There was a report of 4 at Cwm Col-huw cliffs, a former breeding site, on 11th April; GOWER: Bred at The Knave, Burry Holm and Fall Bay, probably bred at Bacon Hole and present at 4 other sites; PEMBROKE: On Skokholm 179 pairs recorded, the highest ever. On Ramsey 262 apparently occupied sites (AOS), productivity was poor (0.24 y/n, cf 0.62 in 2013) and Skomer count recorded a mean of 556 AOS on the whole island count. There were also 91 AOS on Caldey Island and 11 AOS on St Margaret's Island. Widely recorded breeding around suitable coastal areas; CAERNARFON: 17 AOS on Bardsey and on mainland Llŷn 48 AOS at Porth Ceiriad, 11 nests at Bytillith, Rhiw and 5 AOS at Carreg y Llam. On the north coast, 18 AOS at the Great Orme and 11 AOS on the Pen-y-clip headland near Penmaenmawr. Breeding was also recorded on the Little Orme and was probable at Porth Ychain; ANGLESEY: 12 pairs nested at South Stack (19 in 2013) with 14 pairs on the whole reserve (21 in 2013), and there were 22 AOS on Puffin Island. Present on nesting ledges at Red Wharf Bay, Moelfre, Benllech and Traeth Lligwy during Dec; DENBIGH: Records along the coast from Colwyn Bay to Towyn. There were reports of 3-4 pairs from ledges in the quarry at Llanddulas from April to June and by 26th Dec ten pairs were occupying ledges there. Elsewhere, reports were of 1-3, except for 7 at Colwyn Bay cliffs (with birds on eggs on 17th May and 8 in the same location on 20th May. Singles were also seen on the cliffs in Sept, Nov and Dec.

Other interesting records were: E. GLAMORGAN: 50 off Irongate Pt, Porthcawl, on 10th May. One near Cardiff County Hall on 25th May was unusual; GOWER: 33 at Mumbles Head on 10th May; PEMBROKE: Maximum day count at Strumble Head was 350 on 11th Dec; CAERNARFON: Max count was 40 off Rhos Point on 23rd March.

CORY'S SHEARWATER *Calonectris diomedea* ADERYN-DRYCIN CORY
(A) *Rare passage migrant, mainly in autumn. On WRP list.*

PEMBROKE: The autumn started off with one seen off Skokholm on 1st Aug, the 7th record for the island. Two passed Strumble Head on 30th Aug and another single on 31st.

GREAT SHEARWATER *Puffinus gravis* ADERYN-DRYCIN MAWR
(A) *Rare passage migrant, mainly in autumn. On WRP list.*

Most birds are seen off Strumble Head, PEMBROKE, with very few venturing further north in the Irish Sea. All this year's records came from Strumble, where there was a very good passage during the last two weeks in August. Single birds were seen on 17th and 24th then four on 29th, a good count of ten on 30th and finally another two on 31st.

SOOTY SHEARWATER *Puffinus griseus*

ADERYN-DRYGIN DU

(B) *A fairly common passage migrant to western coastal areas, principally in the period late August to early October. Wales – Amber listed.*

Sooty Shearwaters are mainly recorded in autumn, as they begin the long journey back to their southern hemisphere breeding sites. The numbers seen off the Welsh coast depend largely on wind conditions during this period. Poor wind conditions in 2014 meant comparatively few records: PEMBROKE: Quite a poor year at Strumble Head, 22 birds in total, 16 in August, 3 in September and 3 in October, max 6 on 30th Aug. Singles from Skomer on 30th July, from the Fishguard to Rosslare Ferry on 20th Aug, on a Seatrust Survey on 4th Sept and from Ramsey on 21st Oct; CEREDIGION: One at Ynyslas on 16th Sept and one at New Quay on the 5th Oct; CAERNARFON: Three passed Bardsey on 20th Oct and a very late bird passed here on 10th Dec. Elsewhere, one passed the Great Orme on 21st Oct; ANGLESEY: One passed North Stack on 22nd Oct.

MANX SHEARWATER *Puffinus puffinus*

ADERYN-DRYGIN MANAW

(C) *Breeding on Pembrokeshire islands and on Bardsey. Large feeding movements and autumn passage off western coasts and up into the Bristol Channel. Wales – Amber listed.*

Breeding records: CAERNARFON: 2014 was the first year of a three-year survey of breeding Manx Shearwaters on Bardsey. This year the south-western part of the island was covered, and 2,516 Apparently Occupied Burrows (AOB) were found. This is an increase of 15.5% on the 2,178 AOB recorded in this area in 1998. The other count method, using voice playback, produced a very low response rate, even when used on burrows known to be occupied. A sample of 101 burrows produced a productivity figure of 0.70 chicks per burrow, slightly below average but an increase on last year's figure of 0.61

Other records included: GWENT: In July, at least 200 birds were seen from Goldcliff Point; E. GLAMORGAN: 300 up channel off Sker Pt on 17th July; GOWER: Max 1,257 off Tutt Head (mainly flying east) in an hour on 30th June; CARMARTHEN: c.100 off Cefn Sidan on 2nd May and c.150 off Burry Port on 23rd June; PEMBROKE: The Teifi Ringing Group caught a single bird on 24th June during a Storm Petrel ringing session at Strumble Head. First heard on Skomer on 19th March and the last record for the year was 11th Nov; CEREDIGION: Seen offshore from 4th April to 4th Oct, max 2,000 at Borth on 24th May, 1,750 on the 11th July at Aberystwyth, 4,000 at Borth on 22nd July, 4,500 there again on 24th and 3,300 at Aberystwyth on 26th July; MEIRIONNYDD: A tight raft of thousands of birds off Trefeddiad shore, Aberdyfi, on 22nd June was presumed part of the huge feeding flock that appears in summer in Cardigan Bay. This record must straddle the border with Ceredigion; CAERNARFON: The largest mainland counts were in late summer/early autumn off Mynydd Mawr, Uwchmynydd, where there were 1,000 on 26th July, 370 on 16th Aug and 830 on 17th Aug. Monthly maximum counts off Bardsey were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Bardsey	0	0	6	430	1803	2496	5021	3696	1500	31	3	2

Birds continued to be seen off Bardsey until 20th Dec, the latest ever record for the island; ANGLESEY: Recorded from 29th March. Large counts included 900 per hour passing Holyhead Breakwater on 17th Aug. 1,307 passed north off South Stack in 1hr on 10th May, 2,188 passed south here in 2hrs on 30th July and 2,865 passed south in 2 hrs on 13th Aug. Off North Stack, 3,066 passed south in 2.5hrs on 3rd Aug. 992 were off Point Lynas on 13th Aug 693 were off Cemlyn on 31st Aug and 810 moved west in an hour here on the evening of 18th July. 686 were off Amlwch Port on 30th Aug. The last record was one off Point Lynas on 3rd Dec.

BALEARIC SHEARWATER *Puffinus mauretanicus*

ADERYN-DRYCIN MOR Y CANOLDIR

(C) *A fairly common passage migrant to western coastal areas, principally in the period late August to early October. Wales – Red listed.*

As with Sooty Shearwater, the lack of suitable winds in autumn meant that there were few records. PEMBROKE: A poor year at Strumble Head, with a total of 63 birds recorded on 21 dates between 11th Aug and 22nd Oct, max 14 on 4th Oct. Elsewhere, Skokholm had a single on 23rd Oct, with two there on 4th and 19th Oct. Ramsey had a single on 7th Oct, two on 19th Oct and another single on 7th Nov. On Skomer, three on 19th Oct and one on 7th Nov; CEREDIGION: Only two records of single birds in September; one at Mwnt on the 11th and one at Ynyslas on the 16th; CAERNARFON: A total of 21 birds were recorded off Bardsey from 13th Aug to 20th Oct, max 4 on 1st Oct. Elsewhere, one passed Porth Ysgaden on 14th Sept and one flew past the Little Orme on 3rd Oct; ANGLESEY: One off The Range RSPB on 4th Oct and one off North Stack on 22nd Oct. One was off Point Lynas on 13th Aug, one on 23rd Sept, 2 on 11th Oct, 13th Oct and 22nd Oct.

STORM PETREL *Hydrobates pelagicus*

PEDRYN DRYCIN

(C) *Breeds regularly on several island sites off the west coast, mainly in very small colonies. Skokholm holds the only population over 1,000 pairs. Wales – Amber listed.*

This is a difficult species to census, and there are no counts from the main sites this year. The count unit is the Apparently Occupied Site (AOS). PEMBROKE: Bred on Grassholm, with 11 AOS, the highest number ever recorded breeding there. On Ramsey five AOS recorded. First recorded on Skomer on 5th May; CAERNARFON: Though there was no systematic census on Bardsey, birds were present at the traditional breeding sites and one bird was found on a nest in June. Four birds responded to audio lures in the colonies on 11th June, and 7 birds were caught on 18th June and 9 on the 25th.

Other records were: GWENT: One down-channel on 10th May past Goldcliff point; E. GLAMORGAN: All records were during the period of strong NW winds 7th – 11th May. Max noted off Porthcawl were 2 on 7th, 4 on 9th, 25 on 10th and 36 on 11th. Also on 11th, 3 were seen off Lavernock and 10 off Sker Pt; GOWER: One off Tutt Head on 11th

May; PEMBROKE: Only four recorded off Strumble Head this year, a single on 11th May and then in autumn two on 21st Oct and a single on 19th Dec, the latest ever recorded in the county. The Teifi Ringing Group ringed three birds at Strumble Head on 24th June; CEREDIGION: The Teifi Ringing Group recorded two birds at Mwnt on 18th June. Two birds were at Mwnt on the 19th June and two again on the 6th July; CAERNARFON: The last record on Bardsey was one trapped on 30th July, but one ringed at Tudweiliog on 9th Aug.

2013: There were 8 past Porthcawl E. GLAMORGAN on 22nd June, the highest count of the year.

LEACH'S PETREL *Oceanodroma leucorhoa*

PEDRYN GYNFFON-FFORCHOG

(B) A scarce autumn visitor, commonest off the north Wales coast. Wales – Amber listed.

As with several other species seen primarily on autumn sea watches, the lack of suitable winds at the right time meant that 2014 was not a good year for records. PEMBROKE: Only five recorded off Strumble Head this year, a single on 19th Oct and four on 21st Oct. Two singles on Ramsey on 21st Oct and 7th Nov were the first records here since 2011; CEREDIGION: All records during October: one off Aberystwyth on the 17th, a bird was found on the slipway at New Quay on the 21st, taken into care and released the next day, and one at Mwnt on 22nd Oct; CAERNARFON: 19+ flew past the Little Orme and two passed the Great Orme on 21st Oct. There were singles off Bardsey on 21st and 22nd Oct; ANGLESEY: 2 flew past Llanlleiana headland on 16th Sept.

GANNET *Morus bassana*

HUGAN

(C) A common bird offshore throughout the year, most plentiful during the extended breeding season, March – October. One major breeding colony on Grassholm, Pembrokeshire. Wales – Amber listed.

There was no count from the Grassholm colony. The highest counts noted offshore in coastal counties was as follows: GWENT: Max 13 off Peterstone Wentlogge on 7th May; E. GLAMORGAN: Max 20 at Porthcawl on 9th Oct; GOWER: 73 flying east off Port Eynon on 9th July, 80 in Fall Bay area on 12th Oct; CARMARTHEN: 124 off Cefn Sidan on 16th June; CEREDIGION: 200 at Aberystwyth on 21st June and 280 at New Quay on 4th Oct; CAERNARFON: 150 off Rhos Point on 23rd March. In early autumn, 200 off Mynydd Mawr, Uwchmynydd, on 16th Aug and 165 here the next day. Monthly maximum counts off Bardsey were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Bardsey	8	6	18	45	57	80	65	140	126	588	17	8

ANGLESEY: Large counts were 500 past Point Lynas on 22nd Oct, 535 between Cemlyn and Carmel on 21st Oct, 630 south past North Stack in 3hrs on 21st Oct and 600 past

Cemlyn in two hours on 21st Oct; DENBIGH: Max count of at least 50 at Towyn on 5th Oct.

Inland records were: BRECON: An apparently healthy adult was at Llangorse Lake over the period 8th – 11th May. Remarkably, a second, a 4th-year bird, was present there on 29th May.

CORMORANT *Phalacrocorax carbo*

MULFRAN

(C) Breeding resident in coastal counties from Gwent to Anglesey. Frequently seen offshore in other counties. A regular visitor to inland freshwaters, mainly between late summer and early spring. Wales – Amber listed.

Breeding numbers in Wales appear to be stable, with declines at some colonies balanced by increases at others. The count unit is of Apparently Occupied Nests (AON): GWENT: Breeding was again confirmed at the colony on Denny Island where 85 birds and 35 AON were recorded during a visit on 8th June; PEMBROKE: 192 AON on St Margaret's Island, 6 AON on Skomer; CEREDIGION: At Penderi breeding colony there were 18 nests visible producing 31 fledged chicks; MEIRIONNYDD: 34 AON on Craig yr Aderyn, a drop from the last count of 51 nests in 2009; CAERNARFON: 294 AON on the Little Orme and 82 AON on the Great Orme, 80 AON at St Tudwal's Island East and 12 AON at Carreg y Llam. Elsewhere, one AON on the Pen-y-clip headland near Penmaenmawr. No birds were found on Ynys Gwylan Fawr during a visit on 26th June, but 9 nest platforms containing a total of 14 young were counted from the sea on Ynys Gwylan Bach; ANGLESEY: 538 AON on Puffin Island, the largest colony in Wales, on 12th June.

Systematic counts from the main estuarine and inland sites (50+ at least once) are tabulated as available:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
GWENT												
Llandegfedd Res	10	10	24	6					124			
E. GLAMORGAN												
Cardiff Bay	11	53	47	35	2	22	56	69	74	77	71	67
GOWER												
Whiteford	41	12	24	22	15	14	37	52	66	54	60	76
Queen's Dk*	57	n/c	61	39	n/c	14	22	52	54	n/c	n/c	67
CARMARTHEN												
C Sidan/Tywyn Pt.	17	32	102	-	-	-	-	-	14	34	26	37
Dryslwyn/Cilsan	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	50	17	4	3
BRECON												
Llangorse	68	75	75	20	8	2	8	23	48	70	93	85
MEIRIONNYDD												
Broadwater	11	5	22	17	-	-	76	-	107	30	5	-
CAERNARFON												
Little Orme	30	2	2	250	380	500		892			150	4
Rhos Point	20	16	20	2	100		18	300			85+	14

DENBIGH												
Horton's Nose								120+	130+		110+	
FLINT												
Gronant	35	182	76	26	291	112	88	130	206	280	214	
Point of Ayr	10	10	11		2	2		4	11	67	90	
Near Rhuddlan							73	103		85	110	118

* evening roost counts.

Other counts of 50+ were: CARMARTHEN: 83 at Pembrey Harbour on 23rd Nov; PEMBROKE: 75 on Caldey & St. Margaret's on 14th June; MEIRIONNYDD: 188 roosting on pylons near Pont Briwet, Dwyrdd Estuary on 21st Aug; CAERNARFON: 74 at the Great Orme on 30th Oct and 64 at Afonwen on 7th Sept; ANGLESEY: 50+ at Porth Penmon on 4th Aug and 180 on Ynys Moelfre on 15th Feb.

SHAG *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*

MULFRAN WERDD

(C) *A regular breeding species on rocky coasts from Gower northwards to Anglesey.*

As with Cormorant, the breeding population in Wales appears to be fairly stable at present. The count unit is of Apparently Occupied Nests (AON): PEMBROKE: 23 AON on Middleholm, 6 AON on St Margaret's Island; CAERNARFON: 42 AON on St Tudwal's Island West and 19 AON on St Tudwal's Island East, both counts a marked decrease on 2013. 34 pairs nested on Bardsey with a minimum of 56 young fledged. The productivity of 1.65 young per pair was the lowest since 2008. At least 46 nests on Ynys Gwylan Fawr contained 91 large young, a productivity of 1.98 per pair. No counts were possible on Ynys Gwylan Bach, but at least 13 birds were present and presumably breeding. On mainland Llŷn, 17 AON at Trwyn Cilan. 13 AON at Carreg y Llam and 6 AON at Murian. There were occupied nests at Trefor on 3rd June, with 24 birds here.; ANGLESEY: 152 AON on Puffin Island and 10 AON at Rhoscolyn. 12 chicks were ringed at one site.

Systematic counts from the main estuarine and inland sites (40+ at least once) are tabulated as available:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
CEREDIGION												
Ynyslas	60	37	1								3	25
CAERNARFON												
Bardsey	19	7	15	26	34	35	86	36	44	22	9	10
Little Orme	8		3	12				3			40	

Other large counts (40+) were: ANGLESEY: 110 in Puffin Island Sound on 16th Feb. Two birds at Goldcliff Lagoons GWENT on 29th Aug was the first county record since 2005.

BITTERN *Botaurus stellaris*

ADERYN Y BWN

(A) Scarce but regular winter visitor chiefly to Anglesey, Ceredigion, Carmarthen, Glamorgan and Pembroke. Wales – Amber listed.

Reasonable numbers of wintering birds, but still no sign of the species returning to breed in Wales. GWENT: One at NWR Uskmouth reedbeds on the 23rd July; E. GLAMORGAN: Up to 3 at Kenfig Pool between 2nd Jan and 15th March. Parc Slip hosted one between 1st Jan and 1st March, while at Forest Farm, Cardiff one was noted from 6th Jan to 4th Feb. In the second winter period, one at Kenfig Pool between 11th Oct and 31st Dec and one at Cosmeston CP from 18th to 29th Dec; CARMARTHEN: In the early winter period there was one at Penclacwydd on 29th Jan, 2 were present in February with 1 remaining to the end of March. In the late winter period there were singles at Penclacwydd from 9th – 24th Nov and 13th – 31st Dec; PEMBROKE: Single birds were at Gupton Farm on 30th Jan and 27th Feb and at Castlemartin Corse on 27th Feb. At the other end of the year, a bird was seen at Bosherton on 13th and 29th Dec and one on the Teifi Marshes all December; CEREDIGION: One at the Teifi marshes on 10th Feb, with a single again here on 6th Nov and 6th & 31st Dec. At Ynys-hir, one bird on 7th Dec and another bird at Borth bog on 31st Dec; BRECON: One probably summered in reed beds at Llangorse Lake with sightings in flight on 30th July and 1st Sept; MONTGOMERY: Llyn Coed y Dinas recorded a bird, most likely on passage, 21st - 23rd Feb. Another at Cors Dyfi was recorded on a trail-cam on 5th Dec and may have over-wintered in the area; ANGLESEY: One at Malltraeth Marsh through Jan-March, up to 4 there on 18-23rd Nov, 2 there through Dec and one at RSPB Valley Lakes on 19th Nov. 1 flew over Llyn Cefni on 2nd Feb, 1 at Llyn Maelog on 16th Feb.

NIGHT HERON *Nycticorax nycticorax*

CRËYR Y NOS

(A) Very rare visitor, on WRP list.

E. GLAMORGAN: At Cosmeston CP, an adult seen flying across the west lake into bushes on 12th June remained, mostly concealed in its chosen Willow, until 15th June. This was the second record for the recording area, the first being at Roath Park Lake in the winter of 1989-90.

CATTLE EGRET *Bubulcus ibis*

CREYR Y GWARTHEG

(A) A rare visitor, on WRP list.

PEMBROKE/CEREDIGION: One on the creek at Teifi Marshes on 4th Oct spent the afternoon on both sides of the Ceredigion/Pembroke border; FLINT: A single at the English part of RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands from 3rd Sept to 13th Dec was occasionally seen in the Welsh part, also seen at Connah's Quay NR from 5th - 7th Sept.

LITTLE EGRET *Egretta garzetta**CREYR BACH*

(B) Now breeds at an increasing number of sites in many counties, also a fairly common autumn migrant and winter visitor.

Little Egrets are spreading as a breeding bird, with several new sites recorded this year. Records of breeding are: GWENT: Breeding was confirmed once again at an established site; GOWER: Bred at two sites. At one site, 24 birds on 18th May, 5 nests established by 23rd June but no young seen. At the other, 8-10 occupied nests on 20th June with 12-15 young present; RADNOR: One pair attempted to breed at one site; MONTGOMERY: An adult was seen in June at Dolydd Hafren where 2 young birds were reported on 13th July, but no evidence of breeding; CAERNARFON: At the main site near Llandygai, there were about 30 nests, but exact counts are very difficult here. At the colony near the Conwy estuary, there were an estimated 6 nests. Two new breeding sites were recorded this year, west of Caernarfon and at least one nest near Pwllheli; ANGLESEY: 2 birds on a nest in the Cae Glas heronry on 26th May; DENBIGH: There was an occupied nest near Bodnant Gardens on 22nd April. This is the first known record of breeding in the county.

A summary of counts at the main sites (with 30+ at least once) is tabulated below:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
GWENT												
Nedern wetland		1	1	10	8	57	17	-	-	-	-	2
Newport WR	3	5	7	10	3	6	7	11	35	10	6	6
GOWER												
Staffal Haegr*	35	43	22	6	14	25	51	15	5	n/c	38	52
CARMARTHEN												
Pendacwydd	4	3	15	8	3	16	40	57	32	36	15	12
Taf	9	7	25	-	-	-	-	-	58	30	6	8
PEMBROKE												
Cleddau Est	15	13	24						53	47	57	39
CEREDIGION												
Dyfi est	13	17	11	-	7	-	29	15	30	17	40	17
CAERNARFON												
Foryd	10	15	8	5	2	15	41	39	24	19	10	10
Traeth Lafan	3	3	22	18	6	32	121	131	86	87	48	35
ANGLESEY												
Inland Sea	2	7	11	10	2	7	14	12	35	18	8	15

* roost counts.

Other large counts (30+) were: GWENT: 36 birds between the Second Severn Crossing and Magor Pill on 13th Sept; E. GLAMORGAN: An increase in numbers is reflected in the highest ever count of 31 at the Hendre Lake, St Mellons roost site in each of the winter periods, on 8th Jan and 26th Nov; CARMARTHEN: 35 roosting at Pwll Sewage Works on 18th Sept and 70 at Machynys Pond on 26th Oct; ANGLESEY: 60 were at the Cadnant Estuary on 17th Sept; DENBIGH: The largest counts were all at RSPB Conwy with 66 on 4th

Aug, 80 on 3rd Sept and 103 on 1st Aug; FLINT: The largest counts were all at Point of Ayr with 40 on 28th Aug and 11th Sept and 53 on 10th Aug.

Counts in the inland counties included: BRECON: A large increase in sightings with birds staying for long periods at a wider range of locations, and June the only month with no sightings. During the main spring passage period, it is impossible to quantify numbers involved as 1 – 3 were reported from the Llangasty area on many dates until 29th May; RADNOR: Recorded from six sites; max of 4 at Glasbury/Llowes on several dates; MONTGOMERY: 5 at Llyn Coed y Dinas on 28th July and 1st Sept.

GREAT WHITE EGRET *Ardea alba*

CREYR MAWR GWYN

(A) *A vagrant, formerly rare but now increasing; on WRP list.*

Numbers recorded in Wales have increased greatly in recent years, and the species has been removed from the WRP list from 2015 onwards. The first record of breeding in Wales may not be too long delayed. Not all records were submitted to the WRP, and several others were considered by the panel to be not proven. All accepted records were: GWENT: One at NWR on 20th June, one at Uskmouth on 9th Aug and one at Goldcliff on 29th Sept, 16th & 22nd Oct; E. GLAMORGAN: An unprecedented number of sightings. One visited Kenfig Saltmarsh on 15th May (also seen GOWER), was again present at Kenfig NNR from 30th June to 8th July, followed by one at Cardiff Bay WR on 23rd July. In Oct, singles were observed at Kenfig NNR on 4th, Llwyn-on Res on 7th and both Lavernock Pt and Talygarn Lake, Pontyclun, on 13th; GOWER: Two at Llanrhidian Marsh from January to 9th April, one to 21st April, then one here on 30th Sept and two from 7th Nov onwards. Elsewhere, one at Briton Ferry on 29th Nov; CARMARTHEN: The bird first seen on 12th Oct 2013 remained in the Dinefwr Ponds area to 16th Feb. Probably the same individual was seen in the Dinefwr Ponds and Dryslwyn area from 31st Oct into 2015. At Penclacwydd a single bird was seen intermittently from 30th Sept through to Nov. In November there was one at the Lliedi river mouth on 5th, 2 at Llangennech on 12th with one there on 19th, presumably the same as those recorded in GOWER; PEMBROKE: One at Bosherston on 30th March, another on St. David's Airfield on 21st April and a third bird at Castlemartin Corse on 1st Nov; CEREDIGION: One bird at Ynys-hir from the 26th June until 1st July and also one at the Dyfi estuary at Ynyshir from 20th Sept to mid-Oct (also seen MONTGOMERY); BRECON: Two wintered at Llangorse Lake between 23rd November 2013 and 6th May. In autumn, what was probably one of those individuals was back at Llangorse from 23rd Sept, joined by a second from 2nd Nov, then joined by a third on 23rd Nov; MONTGOMERY: A single bird in breeding plumage was at Lake Vyrnwy on 6th – 7th May, also the bird on the Dyfi listed under CEREDIGION; CAERNARFON: One on the Menai Strait at Glan Faenol on 4th Sept, later flew to the Anglesey side near Llanedwen; ANGLESEY: One at Cors Erddreiniog on 6th - 14th May; DENBIGH: One at Llyn Alwen on 20th - 25th July then presumably the same bird at Llyn Brenig on 3rd Aug; FLINT: Two on the Dee from 9th Sept onwards.

GREY HERON *Ardea cinerea***CREYR GLAS**

(C) Resident breeding species occurring widely around estuaries, lakes and inland watercourses. Overall in Wales, the population appears to be stable.

Despite two mild winters, numbers in some counties have remained fairly low. Colony counts were received as follows: GWENT: 64 occupied nests at 10 heronries, the same number as 2013, max 13 nests at Piercefield; E. GLAMORGAN: 13 nests at Coed Llwyn Rhyddid, Hensol; GOWER: Total 27 - 29 nests at 9 occupied heronries, compared to 35 nests in 2013; PEMBROKE: Breeding reported from three locations with all successfully fledging young; CEREDIGION: 67 nests at 7 heronries, compared to 68 nests in 2011. The largest heronry was Cockshead, with 20 nests; BRECON: 64 nests at three heronries, including 32 AON at Cefn Rhosan, Sennybridge; RADNOR: 26-33 nests at 5 sites; MONTGOMERY: 7 heronries were found to be active, containing a total of 46 apparently occupied nests (AON). The largest heronry contained 17 AON and the smallest just one; CAERNARFON: 55 nests in 10 heronries. Numbers remain below average following two cold winters; ANGLESEY: Bred at Valley Wetlands; DENBIGH: 22 at a heronry with eighteen occupied nests at Mynydd-y-briw in the Tanat Valley on 10th April.

Monthly counts from selected sites (holding 10+ birds at least once):

		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
GWENT	Llandegfedd	6	15	7	12								
	Nedern	6	9	1	5	3	2	11	13			2	4
PEMBROKE	Cleddau Est	9	15	14						8	13	10	9
CEREDIGION	Cors Caron	9	19	17									
CAERNARFON	Traeth Lafan	20	15	6			2	0	19	16	13	19	11

Other counts of 10+ away from colonies were: GWENT: 28 at West Usk lighthouse on 16th Feb; E. GLAMORGAN: The highest counts came from the Kenfig rivermouth/reed bed area with 14 there on 16th June and 13 on 13th April. A flyover flock of 11 was noted at Parc Cwm Darran on 25th Jan; GOWER: 14 on pasture Old Park Farm Margam on 21st Feb and 14 at R Kenfig reed beds on 16th June; BRECON: 10 at Llangorse Lake on 16th March and at Ffordd Fawr on 14th Oct; MONTGOMERY: 14 at Llyn Coed y Dinas on 24th Sept; CAERNARFON: 12 at Treborth on 2nd March, 12 in the Conwy estuary near the Conwy flyover on 1st Nov and 11 at Glan Faenol on 4th Sept; DENBIGH: The largest counts were 15 at Bodfari on 10th Nov and 17 there on 2nd Dec; FLINT: 12 at Greenfield on 26th Dec and 14 at White Sands on 9th Nov.

PURPLE HERON *Ardea purpurea***CRËYR PORFFOR**

(A) Rare visitor, on WRP list.

E. GLAMORGAN / GOWER: One visited Kenfig saltmarsh on 30th April, the same location as 2013; PEMBROKE: A single flyover bird at Skokholm on 8th June was the first record for the island and only the 12th county record; CAERNARFON: One at Morfa Aber saltmarsh on 15th Nov was only the 4th record for the county and the first since 1998; ANGLESEY:

An immature was at Cors Crygyll, Capel Gwyn on 18th - 26th Nov, the 5th record for the county, presumably the same bird as the one seen earlier in CAERNARFON.

BLACK STORK *Ciconia nigra*
Rare vagrant, on BBRC list.

CICONIA DU

On 20th May, one was seen over Conwy, the Little Orme and Rhos Point CAERNARFON (the second record for the county) and over Colwyn Bay DENBIGH.

WHITE STORK *Ciconia ciconia*
(A) Unusual visitor, records often relating to escaped individuals. On WRP list.

CICONIA GWYN

E. GLAMORGAN: One was seen flying over Lisvane Res on 21st April, the first record since 2007; CAERNARFON: One flew over Bardsey on 19th April, heading east towards the mainland. This was the 7th record for the county.

GLOSSY IBIS *Plegadis falcinellus*
(A) Rare visitor, has increased in recent years. On WRP list

CRYMANBIG DDU

CARMARTHEN: There was one at Penclacwydd from 24th April to 9th May, with 2 there from 10th – 16th May. This species has now been recorded annually since 2009, but these were the first spring records in this period.

SPOONBILL *Platalea leucorodia*
(A) A uncommon visitor to Wales, recorded mainly from estuaries and coastal lagoons and occasionally over-wintering and summering. Wales – Amber listed.

LLWYBIG

All records were: GWENT: Spoonbill is an annual visitor to NWR Goldcliff Lagoons and an adult in breeding plumage arrived there on the 10th March, remaining intermittently throughout the spring; E. GLAMORGAN: One flew over Flat Holm on 29th April, the first record since 2009; GOWER: Singles at Penclawdd marsh on 27th April, at Loughor on 25th May and at Penclawdd the same day; CARMARTHEN: Single birds at Penclacwydd from 14th - 30th March, 27th April and 19th - 25th May; PEMBROKE: A single immature bird was present at Mullock from 13th March until 1st April. During its stay it, made fleeting visits to both Skokholm and Skomer (14th & 17th March); CAERNARFON: One in a flooded field between Llanengan and Llangian from 27th to 31st March and one at Morfa Aber on 8th Nov; ANGLESEY: One flew into roost at Mallaeth on 8th Dec; FLINT: A single was in the Point of Ayr area between 25th Sept and 3rd Oct.

LITTLE GREBE *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

GWYACH FACH

(C) Rather uncommon breeding resident on well vegetated lakes, marshes and water courses; scarcer in the land-locked counties. Winter visitor.

There is no evidence of any significant change in the number of breeding pairs in recent years, though the BTO Atlas shows an expansion in breeding range in Wales between 1988-91 and 2008-11. Breeding records (not full surveys) received were: GWENT: At least six pairs and at least nine young seen at NWR, and at least six pairs bred at Llanwern steelworks. Juveniles were seen at Ynysyfro Res, Hoop Ponds, Osbaston, Pen y Fan, Magor Marsh and Nedern wetland; E. GLAMORGAN: Three pairs bred successfully at Parc Slip and at least two pairs with chicks at E. Aberthaw Quarry and Llanilid. A pair with 3 small chicks at Llanishen Res on 8th June was probably the first confirmed breeding at this site. One juv being fed at Kenfig river mouth on 21st July was the only other proved breeding although a juv was reported at Cosmeston CP on 15th July and fledged young at Cors Crychdydd Reen on 13th Aug; GOWER: 2 broods at Staffal Haegr (Home Pond), also bred at Penllergare Lake, Swansea Vale, Tir John pond and Morfa Tip, with probable breeding at another two sites; CARMARTHEN: Bred at Penclacwydd and Pantilyn, Llandybïe; PEMBROKE: Breeding only reported from a site near St. David's and Marloes Mere; CEREDIGION: Pairs bred at Llyn Pendam, Bwlchcrwys, Llyn Nant yr Arian and Bray's Pool; BRECON: At Talybont Reservoir, two pairs produced one young, at Ty Mawr Pool two pairs raised one and three young, at Brechfa Pool a pair discreetly raised 1-2 young, and at Garth Lake a pair was accompanied by three striped juveniles on 6th Oct. Breeding was possible at Crai Reservoir; RADNOR: At least 17 pairs found; MONTGOMERY: No records of breeding; MEIRIONNYDD: A pair bred on Trawscoed pond, Llanuwchllyn; CAERNARFON: A pair fledged at least one young on Llyn Dinas, with possible breeding at Llyn Ffynhonnau, where trilling was heard on 31st July. Other breeding season records were one on Llyn y Parc on 3rd May and one at the Hafan y Môr ponds near Pwllheli on 27th June; ANGLESEY: Bred at Llyn Cefni with juveniles seen on 21st July, also bred at Valley Wetlands. One on Yr Alt Pool, Rhosneigr on 4th June with 2 juvs here 19th Aug; FLINT: Confirmed breeding at five sites.

Monthly maximum counts at sites holding 10 or more at least once:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
GWENT												
NWR Uskmouth	5	9	14	17	12	9	12	10	19	17	18	8
E. GLAMORGAN												
Cardiff Bay	32	54	29	2	-	1	1	4	31	36	48	41
Lisvane Res	11	11	4	-	-	-	-	10	-	20	15	10
Llanishen Res	-	2	10	-	-	2	-	-	6	8	5	5
Parc Taf Bargoed	20	16	8	-	-	-	1	3	7	14	17	-
Ogmore est	9	7	4	-	-	-	-	1	-	4	10	9
GOWER												
Eglwys Nunydd	8								9	7	15	8
PEMBROKE												
Cleddau Est	30	24	2						4	13	15	14

CEREDIGION													
Teifi est.	5	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	4	10	
BRECON													
Talybont	19	17	4					10	15	26	30	22	15
MEIRIONNYDD													
Glaslyn/Dwryrd	6	11	7	0	-	-	-	-	1	4	1	17	
Talyllyn	2	5	1	0	0	0	1	1	-	9	11	4	
CAERNARFON													
Traeth Lafan	7	9	3			0	0	0	3	11	5	11	
ANGLESEY													
Malltraeth Morfa Mawr	1	12	8		6	7	7	5	5	2	1		
DENBIGH													
RSPB Conwy									9	10+	8+		

The count of 54 in Cardiff Bay on 4th Feb is the highest ever for E. GLAMORGAN. Other counts of 10+ were: PEMBROKE: 13 at the Gann on 20th Dec. Skomer had two records, a juvenile on North Pond on 5th Sept and another bird on the sea in North Haven on 11th Sept; MEIRIONNYDD/ CAERNARFON: 14 at the Glaslyn Pools near Porthmadog on 26th Nov, on the county boundary; ANGLESEY: 12 at Cemlyn on 29th Oct, 20 at Llyn Cefni on 30th Sept, 12 at Llyn Coron on 19th Nov; FLINT: The largest counts were 13 at Ddol Reservoir on 19th Jan, 15 there on 15th March and 15 at Shotwick Fields on 30th Dec.

GREAT CRESTED GREBE *Podiceps cristatus*

GWYACH FAWR GOPOG

(C) Resident breeding species in all counties except Pembroke, breeding on shallow, vegetated lakes. Shows a more coastal distribution in winter and recorded on passage from several counties.

The BTO Atlas shows an expansion in breeding range between 1988-91 and 2008-11 in north and south Wales, but some losses in mid Wales. Records of breeding or possible breeding were: GWENT: Two pairs bred at Llandegfedd Res, both seen with juveniles, single pairs were seen with young at NWR, Machine Pond and Beaufort Hill Ponds, a pair failed at Pant-yr-eos Res and nest-building seen at Nedern wetland; E. GLAMORGAN: Breeding was confirmed with chicks seen at Bute East Dock, Cardiff, (2 pairs including a late brood on 12th Sept), Caerphilly Castle Moat (2 pairs), Cardiff Bay WR (2 pairs), Cardiff Bay (at least 1 pair), Hamadryad inlet (1 pair), R. Ely at Ely Fields (at least 1 pair), Cosmeston CP (1 pair), E. Aberthaw Quarry (1 pair), Parc Tredelerch (1 pair) and Roath Park Lake (1 pair). An occupied nest at Hendre Lake, St Mellons; GOWER: Bred at Eglwys Nunydd Res and Fendrod Lake; CARMARTHEN: A pair were displaying at the Ashpits Pond on 27th March; PEMBROKE: Two breeding attempts at Rosebush were unsuccessful this year; CEREDIGION: A pair at Llyn Glandwgan reared two young and a pair reared two at Bray's Pool. Recorded in the breeding season at 5 other sites; BRECON: Three pairs attempted to breed but all failed at Talybont Reservoir, one pair making a repeat attempt and still incubating eggs on 31st July. At Pentwyn Reservoir a pair failed at the egg stage. At Beacons Reservoir a pair hatched three young, eventually

raising two. 1-2 birds on Crai Reservoir in summer may have attempted to breed. Two pairs at Llangorse Lake produced broods of one and two respectively, but only one survived into late-summer; RADNOR: 5 pairs at 4 sites raised 4 young; MONTGOMERY: Reported from just 3 sites: Llyn Clywedog, Lake Vyrnwy, where a pair failed to breed despite 3 nest attempts, and at Llyn Coed y Dinas, where breeding was confirmed; MEIRIONNYDD: Pairs reported in the breeding season on Llyn Trawsfynydd, Llyn Tegid, Llyn Caer Euni and Llyn Alwena (Rhug), but outcomes not known; CAERNARFON: Single pairs bred at Llyn Elsi and Llyn Cwellyn with pairs present in the breeding season on Llyn Crafnant, Llyn Dinas, Llynau Mymbyr, Llyn Nantlle Uchaf and Llyn Idwal. There was one bird on Llyn Ogwen on 11th April and one on Llyn Gwynant on 19th May, but none at these lakes later in the breeding season; ANGLESEY: 3 pairs present at Malltraeth Marsh RSPB during the breeding season. Birds bred at Llyn Llygeirian with juveniles seen on 21st July, and at Llyn Cefni, with a juvenile seen on 27th Aug. Breeding was also recorded at Valley Wetlands. A pair was on Llyn Maelog from 5th May to 20th Aug but no young seen; DENBIGH: Records of breeding at three sites: at RSPB Conwy and two sites well inland; FLINT: One record of probable breeding.

Monthly counts from sites holding 20 or more at least once were:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
E. GLAMORGAN												
Cardiff Bay	6	23	35	34	12	23	52	45	42	39	4	8
Cardiff Bay WR	-	14	-	33	6	3	22	-	21	-	-	4
GOWER												
Blackpill	264	17	1	-	-	-	-	-	4	121	126	364
Baglan Bay	166	3	41	-	-	-	-	-	7	17	286	358
CARMARTHEN												
Penclacwydd	24	2	5	1	1	2	-	-	7	7	5	4
BRECON												
Llangorse	21	24	20	18	14	8	0	0	1	14	36	18
CAERNARFON												
Morfa Bychan / Borth y Gest	4	8	20							15		13
Rhos Point	12	16	20							4	4	6
Traeth Lafan	70	31	81	31	8	4	25	83	123	52	50	30+
ANGLESEY												
Holyhead Bay	22	18	15								17	

Other counts of 20+ were: CARMARTHEN: c.40 between Amroth and Marros on 28th Dec; PEMBROKE: 30+ off Amroth on 12th Jan, with 40 there on 28th Dec, 23 at Angle Bay on 8th Jan with 20 there on the 4th Jan; MEIRIONNYDD: A return to figures from winters of old with an excellent count of 195 off Morfa Harlech on 29th Nov; CAERNARFON: 24 off Morfa Conwy on 9th Feb; ANGLESEY: 62 were off Benllech on 18th Feb and 39 were off Traeth Lligwy on 16-18th. In the second winter period, 60 off Red Wharf Bay on 15th Nov, with 50 on 25th Nov; DENBIGH: The largest counts were 300 off Pensarn on 19th Jan, 40+ off Belgrano, Pensarn on 10th Feb and 1st March and 50+ at Pensarn on 10th Feb.

RED-NECKED GREBE *Podiceps grisegena*

GWYACH YDDFGOCH

(A) *Scarce but regular winter visitor. Wales – Amber listed.*

The number of records of this species in Wales seems to be in long-term decline, and this was a poor year. All records were: GOWER: One at Berges Island on 18th Feb and one at Llanrhidian Marsh/ Wernffrwd on 26th Dec, then at Whiteford and Whiteford Pt on 28th; ANGLESEY: One flew west at Point Lynas on 9th Oct.

SLAVONIAN GREBE *Podiceps auritus*

GWYACH GORNIOG

(B) *A scarce and local winter visitor, chiefly to coastal waters, occasionally recorded on passage. Rare inland. Wales – Amber listed.*

Numbers of wintering birds at several regular sites appear to be lower than they were ten years ago. Summary of multiple winter records:

		<i>J</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>A</i>		<i>O</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>D</i>
GOWER	Burry Inlet	1+	1+	4	1+			1+	4
CAERNARFON	Morfa Bychan/ Borth-y-gest	1		4					
	Traeth Lafan	4	1	3			0	2	2
ANGLESEY	Beddmanarch Bay	5	5	5	1			1	4

Elsewhere: CEREDIGION: One was on the Clettwr on the 7th Dec, two at Ynyslas on the 13th & 31st Dec and 3 at the Leri on 13th Dec; MEIRIONNYDD: One at Traeth Bach on the 9th March and 4 off Morfa Harlech on 29th Nov; CAERNARFON: One in Foryd Bay on 3rd Jan and two off Rhos Point on 23rd March; ANGLESEY: Inland Sea: 1 on 12th March, 2 on 30th March; DENBIGH: Records during Feb and March of singles at three sites, including Llay Pool, were probably all the same bird. There was one at Colwyn Bay on 6th Dec.

BLACK-NECKED GREBE *Podiceps nigricollis*

GWYACH YDDFDDU

(A) *Rare winter visitor to coastal waters, occasionally recorded on passage. Has bred on Anglesey in the past. Wales – Amber listed.*

Another species which is less common than it was ten or fifteen years ago. GWENT: Two were found at Llandegfedd Reservoir on the 4th Oct; E. GLAMORGAN: A bird in Cardiff Bay between 2nd Jan and 4th Feb and one at Cardiff Bay WR on 29th March. A series of reports from Lisvane Res in Aug; one on the 16th, joined by a moulting summer plumaged bird on 26th, then the original bird plus a juv on 30th, and a juv seen on both Lisvane and Llanishen Res on 31st Aug. Singles in Cardiff Bay on 27th Sept and 27th Nov, 2 at an undisclosed site on 29th Sept and 2 at Lisvane Res on 5th Oct; GOWER: One at Wernffrwd/ Llanrhidian on 16th Feb, two at Eglwys Nunydd res on 29th Sept and singles on 10 dates 6th Oct – 29th Dec; BRECON: One was at Llangorse Lake from 2nd – 5th April; CAERNARFON: There were two at Borth y Gest on 1st March. In the second winter period, one at Afonwen on 21st Sept and one at Aber Ogwen on 23rd – 24th Nov; DENBIGH: A single at a quarry pool near Afonwen at both ends of the year, between

30th March and 10th April then between 7th Sept and 31st Dec; FLINT: A single was at the boating pool, Shotwick on 22nd Dec with a max of 3 on 28th Dec remaining until at least 31st Dec.

HONEY-BUZZARD *Pernis apivorus*

BOD Y MEL

(B) First confirmed breeding in 1992, now breeds in small numbers. Formerly a rare summer visitor, numbers have increased throughout the 1980's and it is now recorded annually. Wales – Amber listed.

Breeding information (Steve Roberts) as follows: GOWER: A pair failed on eggs, nest collapsed. Replaced 4kms away- 2 chicks, 1 fledged very late in September. A second pair- female not returned, the male refurbished the nest alone. In north Wales, reports and photographic evidence of birds carrying food at a previously regularly used site.

All other records were of single migrants: in RADNOR at Llandrindod Wells on 15th June and Painscastle on 6th July; in MONTGOMERY at Dolydd Hafren on 31st Aug; on Bardsey, CAERNARFON on 12th June & 19th Aug; at Connah's Quay NR, FLINT on 16th July.

BLACK KITE *Milvus migrans*

BARCUD DDU

Very rare visitor, on WRP list.

The only record was of one over Skomer PEMBROKE on 16th May.

RED KITE *Milvus milvus*

BARCUD COCH

(C) Formerly widespread, but almost eradicated between the late 18th and early 20th centuries. Now an increasing resident breeder in Wales. Wales – Amber listed.

Detailed results from nest monitoring are no longer available as numbers increase. GWENT: Most records were from the northern half of the western valleys, Abergavenny, the upper Usk Valley and the area between Raglan and Monmouth, which overall is a good reflection of the species' expanding breeding range. 7 nests reported and probably a further five which were not found. Nests have been found in the grounds of large houses and near busy roads; E. GLAMORGAN: Max 24 at Pant-yr-Awel on 22nd Dec; GOWER: Present in suitable habitat at 8 sites in Gower and 10 in the rest of the area; CARMARTHEN: Breeding was recorded in the suburban outskirts of Llanelli; PEMBROKE: Estimated around 35 pairs; CEREDIGION: 250+ pairs. The Nant-yr-Arian feeding station site regularly attracted 100- 200 birds; BRECON: Breeding population estimated at 90 pairs; MONTGOMERY: A roost in the Severn Valley held 27 birds in mid-December; CAERNARFON: Breeding population probably 7-8 pairs, with expansion of range up the Conwy valley and into western Llŷn..

MARSH HARRIER *Circus aeruginosus*

BOD Y GWERNI

(B) An increasing passage migrant, occasionally overwinters. Wales – Amber listed.

Spring passage of males: at Dolydd Hafren, MONTGOMERY on 15th April and a sub-adult male seen over moorland near Llyn Celyn MEIRIONNYDD on 30th June.

Females and immature birds: GWENT: A female at NWR on 1st and 24th March, 6 April records here between 17th and 26th, involving a female and a second calendar year male. Presumably the same two birds remained throughout May, with sightings on 11 dates, but there were only six sightings for June; GOWER: One over Oxwich Marsh on 3rd May, PEMBROKE: A female at Marloes Mere, PEMBROKE on 17th & 18th May; MONTGOMERY: One at Cors Dyfi on 18th April; CAERNARFON: One at Aber Ogwen on 16th May.

In autumn, females / immatures: GWENT: 7 records at NWR in July and 9 records in Aug of a female and a juvenile. Birds were reported on six dates in Sept, 12 in Oct, six in Nov and four in Dec. Two birds were seen on 21st, 24th and 29th May, involving an immature male and moulting female, and on 26th and 27th Aug and 30th Dec, involving a female and first-year male. Elsewhere, a juvenile at St Brides Wentlooge on 9th Aug and a female at West Pill on 1st Nov. Away from the coast, only one record was received, of a female or immature over Oakdale Business Park with probably the same bird seen later moving through the Ebbw valley; E. GLAMORGAN: At Kenfig saltmarsh 23rd - 26th July, Cardiff Bay Wetland Reserve 8th Aug, Cardiff Heliport 17th Aug, Rhaslas Pond 25th Aug and over Roach on 15th Sept; GOWER: Singles at R Kenfig saltmarsh/ Margam Burrows on 23rd - 24th and 26th July, 2 juvs at Llanrhidian/ Staffal Haegr on 25th - 26th July, a juv with green wing tags (tagged as a nestling at Wells-next-the-Sea on 14th June, also seen CARMARTHEN) at Wernffrwd on 8th, 10th and 14th Sept and at Staffal Haegr and at Berthlwyd on 30th Sept, probably the same bird at Staffal Haegr on 3rd Oct. A worn imm female at Llanrhidian Marsh on 9th Nov and at Salthouse Pt on 16th Nov, then between Leason and Llanrhidian on 20th Nov; CARMARTHEN: The wing-tagged juv. at Penclacwydd, 8th - 27th Sept, also seen at Kidwelly Quay, another juv at the same site 9th - 23rd Nov; PEMBROKE: At Marloes Mere, 14th - 19th Sept, another on Skomer on 30th Aug, with two in the Castle Martin Corse - Freshwater West area in Nov & Dec; CEREDIGION: On the Dyfi, on 2nd & 30th Aug, 1st Oct and one at Clettwr on 7th Dec; BRECON: At Mynydd Llangynidr, on 18th Sept; MEIRIONNYDD: One seen over the Glaslyn Marshes from the Cob on 6th Oct; CAERNARFON: Over Bardsey on 24th July, another the following day and one in the Porthmadog area on 16th Sept; DENBIGH: At Bwlch Gwyn, Mynydd Hiraethog, on 5th Aug and at Llyn Alwen on 14th & 15th Aug; FLINT: Singles in Aug & Sept but two together at Connah's Quay NR on 7th Dec and at RSPB Oakenholt on 15th where a Marsh Harrier took a Teal from a Peregrine, then a second harrier tried to rob the first, and the Teal escaped.

Unsexed: two at Glaslyn Osprey Watchpoint, Pont Croesor, MEIRIONNYDD/ CAERNARFON on 22nd June; at Maltraeth RSPB, ANGLESEY 30th May & 2nd and 22nd Aug.

HEN HARRIER *Circus cyaneus*

BOD TINWEN

(C) Small numbers breed on the uplands of north and mid-Wales, otherwise a winter visitor and passage migrant in small numbers. Wales – Red listed.

RADNOR: Five pairs located, all on areas not managed for Red Grouse shooting; MONTGOMERY: 2 nesting attempts in the Lake Vyrnwy area, one of which fledged 2 young, sightings elsewhere suggested another pair in the county; MEIRIONNYDD: An area of moorland east of Bala held a pair that failed, while another area south of this site held 2 pairs. One pair fledged two chicks, while 4 out of 5 chicks of the other pair died, apparently as a result of heavy rain with hail and thunder. The male was seen carrying one dead chick and dumping it c 400m away, behaviour apparently never recorded before. An area of moorland west of Llyn Tegid held 4 pairs, but only one young fledged, with fox predation a factor. An area in northern Meirionnydd had 3 pairs, all of which fledged young, 11-12 young in all. In total, 44 eggs laid, 36 chicks hatched and 19 chicks fledged, not including a large area not checked by anyone this year; CAERNARFON: At least two pairs bred on the Migneint, and one pair fledged young in the Carneddau, with possibly another pair here; DENBIGH: Two records of pairs present in April.

Widely recorded outside the breeding season and range. Breakdown of other records for each county (for some, specific sites are also included), separated by sex where given (M = male, J = juv., 1st M = immature male, RT = ring-tail):

	J	F	M	A	M	J	Jy	A	S	O	N	D
GWENT	2RT	RT JM	RT							2RT		RT
E. GLAMORGAN	2+ RT	3M 2RT		2RT			RT		5RT	2M RT	RT	RT
GOWER	M 2RT	M RT									2RT	3RT
CARMARTHEN		M										M
		RT								RT		
PEMBROKE		M		M								M
Dowrog / St. David's/ Ramsey		2RT		RT						RT	RT	
Newgale		RT	RT									RT
Marloes / Skomer / Skokholm / Gann			RT	RT						RT	RT	M RT
CEREDIGION		1	3		M					1	1	
Dyfi est.	1			1	2					1	1	1
Cors Caron	2	2	1							2		3
BRECON	M						M	RT	2RT	2M 3RT	2RT	4M 2RT
MONTGOMERY		RT			1	M				M	M	M RT
MEIRIONNYDD			M 2RT	1	1			RT		M RT	2M RT +1	M 2RT

CAERNARFON	2RT				M	M	M	RT		2M	M	M
Unsexed											1	1
ANGLESEY		M									RT	
Malltraeth / Alaw	2M		M							RT	M	M
DENBIGH			M RT	4M 4RT	M	M RT	RT	2RT				
FLINT		1	1		1				1			2

GOSHAWK *Accipiter gentilis*

GWALCH MARTH

(C) *An increasing breeding resident in all Welsh counties.*

GWENT: A broader spread of records than in recent years, with the Monnow valley and areas of the western valleys now well represented and regular sightings at some locations. "Pairs" were seen in March/April and two males were displaying against each other near Abergavenny on 3rd Dec. In the east of the county, 21 nests were visited, of which three failed, the overall productivity was 2.0 young fledged per nest. The only breeding record away from this core area was of a nest near Llanover; E. GLAMORGAN: Two confirmed breeding records, otherwise reported from 28 locations; GOWER: Bred at one site and present at 6 suitable breeding sites; PEMBROKE: Reported at five sites during the breeding season and at six other sites; CEREDIGION: Reported from 6 sites; BRECON: 38 records mainly from traditional breeding sites. In spring, hunting birds targeted Starlings on Epynt, Wood Pigeons near Brecon, Golden Plover on Llandefalle Hill, and a female attempted to take a Coot off Llangorse Lake. Felling of commercial softwoods, and larch following infection by *Phytophthora*, meant that some pairs were forced to vacate traditional nest sites, and construct new nests which may not have been found. However, 1-2 adults were seen in the breeding season at 16 sites, but breeding was confirmed at just four. The only report of juveniles came from near Llanwrthwl; RADNOR: Ten pairs found in the north-east of the county, probably 25+ in total; MONTGOMERY: 4 nests found at Lake Vyrnwy, and at least one other nest in the county is known to have produced young; MEIRIONNYDD: A survey in the Bala to Vivod area found 6 active nests fledging at least 5 young from 3 nests. 3 nests failed. A pair sky dancing at one site in the north-east of the county, and birds recorded at 10-11 other sites; CAERNARFON: One pair noted displaying and four other records; DENBIGH: 16 reports was well above average; FLINT: One report.

SPARROWHAWK *Accipiter nisus*

GWALCH GLAS

(D) *Common and widespread breeding resident throughout Wales, some evidence that it is declining where Goshawks are widespread.*

BUZZARD *Buteo buteo**BWNCATH**(C) Common and widespread breeding resident throughout all of Wales.*

CAERNARFON: In an area of 20km² around Felinheli and Pentir, there were 9 territorial pairs, equivalent to a density of 45 pairs per 100km².

Largest counts (20+) were: GWENT: 24 in a thermal at Cwm Gwenffrwd on 1st March; BRECON: 25 morning on a grazed turnip field at Llanhamlech, on 7th Feb and 24 over Llangenny on 1st March; MONTGOMERY: 55 in a field near Meifod on 14th Jan, numbers dwindled there to 30 on 13th Feb, 20 also at Dolydd Hafren on 23rd Nov; CAERNARFON: 20 at Upper Bangor on 10th March with 21 there on 1st April.

OSPREY *Pandion haliaetus**GWALCH Y PYSGOD*

(B) An annual spring and autumn passage migrant which has increased in parallel with the Scottish breeding population. First bred in 2004, although a nest was built in 2003. Wales – Amber listed.

Records of breeding or possible breeding were: BRECON: One summered in the Usk Valley, 22nd June - 21st July; MONTGOMERY: Two breeding pairs, both fledging two young; MEIRIONNYDD: The Glaslyn pair fledged three chicks: 2014 marked the 10th consecutive year that the same pair had returned to the same site. Another pair fledged 2 young from an unpublicised site. Records around the Dyfi area are thought to be the birds breeding in Montgomery; CAERNARFON: Many records of up to five birds in the Porthmadog area, between 14th March and 27th July are assumed to be the pair which breeds just over the border in Meirionnydd and their young.

Apart from the above, approximate monthly totals for each county:

	Feb	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept	Oct.	Nov
GWENT			2	2			1	3	1	
E. GLAMORGAN		3	2		1		1	1		1*
GOWER			2				4	5	1	
CARMARTHEN		1						2		
PEMBROKE		1	1				4	7	1	
CEREDIGION		2	3	1				2		
BRECON		1	3		1+		1			
RADNOR			2	1	1			1		
MONTGOMERY		1	5		1	1				
MEIRIONNYDD			2	1		4		1		
CAERNARFON		2	2	6	3	2		1		
ANGLESEY				1			2+			
DENBIGH		1	1	1	1			2		
FLINT					1		1			

* over Kenfig Pool on 10th Nov.

WATER RAIL *Rallus aquaticus**RHEGEN Y DWR*

(C) A scarce breeding resident, more commonly recorded as a passage migrant and winter visitor to all counties.

This is a secretive species, and only a dedicated survey of suitable sites will give a reasonable idea of numbers. This makes it difficult to see any trends. Breeding records received were: GWENT: The annual breeding survey undertaken at NWR in April recorded three breeding pairs, compared to four pairs in 2013; E. GLAMORGAN: No reports of confirmed breeding but birds were reported as present during the summer months at Kenfig NNR, Tirfounder Fields, Rhoose, and Pitcot Pond; CARMARTHEN: Probably bred at Glynea Pond, Bynea where a family group was seen on 18th July; BRECON: The only breeding season reports involved an adult calling near the Llangasty bird hide on 25th May with a juvenile seen on 28th June, and territorial calls heard at Llangasty reedbed (E), Y Gors and Traeth Mawr during May; RADNOR: Found in the breeding season at 7 sites; MONTGOMERY: Confirmed breeding at Dolydd Hafren; CAERNARFON: One sharming at Morfa Madryn on 26th April could potentially be a breeding bird, and the species was present all year at Cwm y Glo marsh; ANGLESEY: 10 occupied territories at RSPB Malltraeth Marsh. On a visit to Puffin Island, the SCAN ringing group found a Water Rail chick and nest on 28th June; DENBIGH: There were no records of breeding activity; FLINT: A bird seen with nesting material on 22nd March at Shotwick Fields. Six records came from the *Typha* filled pool at Rhydymwyn where 1-2 were present from 24th June to 8th Aug and were considered to have probably bred though no young were seen in the dense vegetation.

Maximum autumn & winter concentrations (4+) were:

		<i>J</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>A</i>	<i>Jul</i>	<i>A</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>O</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>D</i>
GWENT	Llanwern steelworks	4		3				3	2		
	NWR	7	5	2	1			3	7	12	16
E. GLAMORGAN	Cardiff Bay and CBWR	10								11	8
CARMARTHEN	Penclacwydd	4	1	3				2	2	12	6
CEREDIGION	Teifi Est		1	2				3	6	2	4
DENBIGH	RSPB Conwy	15			5			3			4

The count of 15 at RSPB Conwy DENBIGH on 17th Jan is more than twice the average maximum for recent years. Other large counts (4+) were: E. GLAMORGAN: 10 at Cardiff Bay WR on 5th Jan and in the second winter period, 11 at Cardiff Bay on 9th Nov. A survey using playback in Nov/Dec found 57 responding birds at 7 sites, max 17 at Cosmeston CP on 18th Nov, 10 at Rhoose Pt on 24th Nov, 14 in all at Aberthaw on 26th Nov and 10 in all at Cardiff Bay WR on 6th Dec; PEMBROKE: 6 at Pembroke Mill Pond on 15th Dec. On Skokholm an autumn influx from September onwards, max. 9 on 5th Sept, 14 in October and 9 on 2nd & 5th Nov; BRECON: High water levels forced 5 out of reed beds at Llangasty in mid-February. In the western reed beds at Llangorse Lake, peak counts in both winter periods were 6-7 heard on several dates in March, and 8 in December. 3-4 were at Y Gors during Nov/Dec; RADNOR: 6+ at Rhosgoch Oct/Nov; MONTGOMERY: 11 at Dolydd Hafren on 9th Nov; CAERNARFON: 4 on Bardsey on 29th Oct and 4th Nov; ANGLESEY: 6 at Cors Erddreiniog on 28th Dec.

SPOTTED CRAKE *Porzana porzana**RHEGEN FRAITH**(A) Rare vagrant and occasional breeder, on WRP list. Wales – Amber listed.*

One was heard calling on 23rd and 24th May at a site in BRECON, and another was photographed at RSPB Malltraeth Marsh ANGLESEY on 30th July.

CORN CRAKE *Crex crex**RHEGEN YR YD**(A) Formerly bred, now a scarce passage migrant, on WRP list. Wales – Red listed.*

MEIRIONNYDD: One was calling at Llyn Barfog on 16th July; FLINT: One was found in a garden in Rhyl and later found dead on 16th Sept. The body was photographed.

MOORHEN *Gallinula chloropus**IAR DDWR**(C) A locally common breeding resident and winter visitor, widespread throughout Wales.*

The breeding population appears to be fairly stable in most counties. Breeding records included: GWENT: A total of 141 large young seen on the Mon-Brecon Canal between Pontywaun and Pontymoile, with breeding confirmed at another 13 sites; E. GLAMORGAN: Breeding was confirmed at fifteen southerly locations and was reported as possible at Clydach Vale and St. Fagan's; GOWER: Bred at 19 sites, including 8 pairs on the Neath Canal between Zoar's Ark & Square Pond; CARMARTHEN: 19 broods at Penclacwydd; CEREDIGION: Only one record of breeding, a pair with 4 juveniles at Blaenpentre Farm pond on 17th July; BRECON: Breeding occurred for the first time in many years at Talybont Reservoir where two juveniles were seen on 8th Aug. Pairs also bred at regular sites: Llangorse Lake (many), Penlan Ponds (2), Sarnau Pools, Graiggoch Pool, Craig-y-nos CP, Brechfa Pool, Ty Mawr Pool and Garth Lake. Possibly bred at another two sites; MONTGOMERY: Bred at Dolydd Hafren; MEIRIONNYDD: Bred at Penrhyndeudraeth Industrial Estate, with 12 recently fledged juveniles seen; CAERNARFON: 7 pairs bred on Bardsey, an increase on the last two years, with at least 21 chicks fledging. Breeding was recorded at another five sites; ANGLESEY: 26 occupied territories at RSPB Malltraeth and 6 pairs with young at RSPB Valley Wetlands. Bred at Malltraeth Cob Pools with juveniles seen on 28th July. A pair with 3 chicks seen at Pentre Traeth, Rhosneigr, on 5th May and 6 well grown young near Penmon Priory on 27th May. At least one pair probably bred at Cemlyn; DENBIGH: There were records of confirmed breeding at just one location; FLINT: Records of confirmed breeding at eight locations.

Monthly max. at the main wintering sites, with 40 or more at least once, are tabulated as available:

	<i>J</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>A</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>J</i>	<i>J</i>	<i>A</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>O</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>D</i>
GWENT: Mon-Brecon Canal												
Pontywaun - 14 Locks	77	62	57						90	99	149	102
14 Locks - Cwmbran			50						99			
Cwmbran - Pontymoile					14		61					
Newport Wetlands	21	20	15		11		19	9	41	49	40	17
E. GLAMORGAN												
Cardiff Bay	-	16	16	6	-	8	22	40	36	22	29	42
GOWER												
Staffal Haegr	28	n/r	9	10	5	9	45	42	34	21	29	12
CARMARTHEN												
Penclacwydd	111	14	13	16	14	18	17	36	13	17	19	50

Other counts of 40+ were: PEMBROKE: 40 on Pembroke Mill Ponds on 15th Dec; DENBIGH: 41 at Pentre Mawr Park, Abergele on 9th Nov; FLINT: 52 near Llanerch-y-Mor on 19th Jan.

COOT *Fulica atra*

CWTIAR

(C) A locally common breeding resident and winter visitor, widespread throughout Wales.

There are indications of a severe decline in breeding numbers in several western counties in recent years. This is a species which now needs to be monitored closely. Breeding records are: GWENT: Confirmed breeding at 10 sites, max 7 nests producing young at Nedern wetland and 5 pairs nesting successfully at Ynysfro Res; E. GLAMORGAN: 17 nests at Bute East Dock, where at least 9 pairs hatched 12 clutches and 2 pairs successfully raised two broods. Breeding confirmed at 19 other sites; GOWER: Bred at 10 sites; CARMARTHEN: Bred at Penclacwydd (2 broods); CEREDIGION: No breeding records, with numbers said to be much reduced in recent years; BRECON: Brechfa Pool continues to be the most productive breeding site, with 13 juvs. accompanying 17 adults on 18th June. Possible breeding at Dderw Pool and Garth Lake; RADNOR: Bred at a minimum of 17 sites. 12 pairs at Llyn Heilyn raised 30+ young; MONTGOMERY: Bred at Dolydd Hafren; CAERNARFON: This species has declined considerably in the county in the last few years. A well-grown youngster on Llyn Padarn on 12th July suggests that a pair may have bred here, and there were birds present in the breeding season at two other sites; ANGLESEY: 17 pairs with young at RSPB Valley Wetlands and 33 occupied territories at RSPB Malltraeth. Bred at Llyn Cefni with juveniles seen on 21st July. A pair were nest building at Aberffraw on 24th April. Numbers were very low again at Cemlyn, with only five pairs seen; DENBIGH: Probable breeding at six sites and confirmed breeding at ten; FLINT: Probable breeding at two locations and confirmed breeding at ten.

Wintering numbers have also declined at several sites. Monthly max. at the main wintering sites (100+ at least once) are tabulated as available:

	<i>J</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>A</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>J</i>	<i>J</i>	<i>A</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>O</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>D</i>
GWENT												
Ynysfro Res	154	65	35	23	16	16	52	84	134	137	147	157
E. GLAMORGAN												
Cardiff Bay excl CBWR	150+	168	50	30	-	40	131	244	420	530	420	521
Roath Pk Lake	126	49	22	27	-	48	-	144	173	183	168	190
GOWER												
Eglwys Nunydd res	72							80	89	141	135	67
CARMARTHEN												
Penclacwydd	37	20	18	10	6	8	6	6	13	19	24	117
BRECON												
Llangorse	431	256	59	36	23	6	36	43	99	269	397	302

Other counts of 100+ were: FLINT: 100+ at Ddol Reservoir, Ysceifiog on 1st Dec.

COMMON CRANE *Grus grus*

GARAN

(A) *Rare visitor, on WRP list.*

A total of 93 birds hatched from eggs collected in Germany and then hand reared were introduced to the Somerset Levels and Moors by the Great Crane Project between 2010 and 2015. Recent sightings in south-east Wales are assumed to be from this project.

GWENT: One on the grasslands at Newport WR on 11th April, then, throughout the spring, a pair from the Great Crane Project known as "Lofty and Gibble", were seen frequently, though often only in flight over NWR Goldcliff Lagoons. The last reported sighting of the year was in Nov; E. GLAMORGAN: On 11th April, 5 flew over central Cardiff.

STONE-CURLEW *Burhinus oedicnemus*

RHEDWR Y MOELYDD

(A) *Rare vagrant, on WRP list.*

BRECON: One on regenerated pasture at Brynhenllys on 15th May; CAERNARFON: One on Bardsey on 1st April was the first record here since 1992. This is the fourth record for the county, all recorded on Bardsey.

AVOCET *Recurvirostra avosetta*

CAMBIG

(A) *Now breeds in Gwent, but elsewhere still a scarce visitor. Wales – Amber listed.*

GWENT: All records came from NWR Goldcliff Lagoons. Breeding was very successful: 38 pairs nested, fledging a total of 40 young. This represents a very substantial change of fortunes compared to recent years; E. GLAMORGAN: One by the R. Ogmore on 1st April;

CARMARTHEN: The overwintering bird remained at Llansteffan to 20th Feb and there were 2 at Penclacwydd on 18th May; CEREDIGION: One briefly at Ynys-hir on 10th Aug; MONTGOMERY: A bird at Llyn Coed y Dinas on 12th Jan was probably only the second county record; DENBIGH: The only record was 5 at RSPB Conwy on 10th Aug; FLINT: 6 records in 4 1km squares, all records of presence or singles apart from 2 at Flint saltmarsh on 31st July.

OYSTERCATCHER *Haematopus ostralegus*

PIODEN Y MOR

(C) A common, chiefly coastal, breeding species and abundant winter visitor to all coastal areas of Wales. Wales – Amber listed.

Unlike several other waders, the breeding population appears to be stable in most areas. Breeding records were: GWENT: A bird on a nest at Uskmouth power station on 11th May, a nest with two eggs at Peterstone Wentlooge on 26th June but nest empty on 1st July and an adult and juvenile on the Uskmouth foreshore on 29th June. NWR surveys found six breeding territories, but only one youngster was seen; PEMBROKE: Breeding was reported from Skokholm and Skomer where there were 51 and 66 breeding pairs respectively and also on Ramsey; BRECON: A pair at Llangasty successfully raised one chick; CEREDIGION: Breeding records came from Aberarth where a pair bred on the cliff, Drefach near Aberaeron, near boatyard at the Leri, New Quay, Llangrannog, Cardigan Island and three pairs at Ynys-hir; RADNOR: Two pairs at Glasbury/Llowes; MONTGOMERY: At Llyn Coed y Dinas a nest with 3 eggs was reported on 25th April. The species was present at Dolydd Hafren Feb-July, but no breeding records this year; MEIRIONNYDD: Two pairs present on Llyn Trawsfynydd, one pair confirmed breeding; CAERNARFON: 101 pairs held territory on Bardsey, 14 more than 2013, but predation meant that only 38 chicks survived. Breeding was recorded at one site on the mainland and probable breeding at another; ANGLESEY: At Cemlyn at least 18 pairs bred, very similar numbers to last year. Only six are known to have hatched chicks, with 6 juveniles surviving to the seasons end, half last season's total. Several pairs with young at RSPB Valley Wetlands and one occupied nest raised 2 chicks at RSPB Malltraeth Marsh. Five nests were found on The Skerries, with breeding also in Holyhead harbour and at the Inland Sea; FLINT: Records of probable breeding at three sites and confirmed breeding at four.

Sizeable flocks of this species occur all round the Welsh coast, with Carmarthen Bay and the Burry Inlet of international importance, as is the Dee estuary (including the English side). WeBS counts show an overall increase in numbers since the early 1980s. The monthly max. for the main sites (holding counts of 1,000 at least once) are:

	Jan	Feb	Mar.	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept.	Oct	Nov	Dec
CARMARTHEN												
Penclacwydd	2110	-	-	-	72	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
C Sidan/Tywyn Pt.	5470	1650	170	-	-	-	-	-	4320	7000	6536	2300
Taf	2000	2903	907	-	-	-	-	-	1243	264	300	3916
CAERNARFON												
Traeth Lafan	5013	5050	1320	363	270	988	924	3000	2152	3574	5154	7885
FLINT												
Gronant	236	1500	475	550	96	360	300+	600	112	270	92	
Point of Ayr	8000	1450	4000	2400	1000	700	500	4000	1500	6000	7000	8500
Mostyn Dock	2000		900	1500	1800	450	1700	4000	4500	5000	3000	
Walwen Fields	1050		180	70	21	5	100	250	700	680	445	
Oakenholt Marsh	160	60	200	8	100	12	130	420	200	3400	300	

Other notable counts were: FLINT: 5,000+ at Talacre on 19th Jan, 5,700 near Mostyn on 19th Jan.

GOLDEN PLOVER *Pluvialis apricaria*

CWTIAD AUR

(C) A scarce breeding species, found chiefly on the upland plateaux of Denbigh, Radnor, Ceredigion and Brecon. Wales – Red listed.

The breeding population in Wales is probably still declining despite conservation efforts. Breeding records or records indicating possible breeding were: CARMARTHEN: Two pairs held territory on Mynydd Du, but no young seen; CEREDIGION: No breeding records were received although a single bird was behaving territorially and calling just within Ceredigion at Plynlimon on 1st May and there were five at Bryn Cras, Plynlimon on 24th June; BRECON: Up to four pairs bred at traditional sites in the Black Mountains, a small chick found on 4th June. 1-2 birds behaving furtively in the uplands above Trecastle in April and Oct may indicate a breeding attempt at a new site there. Other breeding sites with occupation in recent years were not checked. However, transect counts over 8 km² on two dates in May/June at a former stronghold on Abergwesyn Common found only one male on territory, with breeding not proven. Management to restrict the advance of *Molinia* grasslands over parts of this extensive upland site, formerly important for breeding Golden Plover, does not appear to have halted population decline; RADNOR: At least 10 pairs found at 4 sites; MEIRIONNYDD: 4 pairs on an area of moorland west of Bala; CAERNARFON: The only record of probable breeding was a pair alarming on peat hags at a site on the Caernarfon part of the Migneint on 25th June; DENBIGH: A single near Llyn Lluncaws in the Berwyn on 11th June could indicate possible breeding.

WeBS data show a marked decrease in wintering numbers in recent years, and medium-term and short-term High Alerts have been issued for Wales. Monthly max. at major wintering areas (holding 400 at least once) are tabulated as available:

		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
E. GLAMORGAN	Sker area	-	150	200	4	4	247	425	990	500
	Kenfig area		24	170	80		6		750	100
CARMARTHEN	Penclacwydd	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	350	1000
	Gwendraeth	1850	500	62	-	-	-	-	650	50
	Taf	4000	2200	-	-	-	-	-	-	700
PEMBROKE	Cleddau Est.	1775	2850					433	430	496
BRECON	Llandefalle Hill	nc	300	nc	300			nc	530	nc
CAERNARFON	Morfa Dinlle		80					460	60	740
	Traeth Crugan	5		30		1	1	580		16

The count of 990 in the Sker area E. GLAMORGAN in Nov was the highest count in this area for several years. Other large winter flocks in coastal counties were: PEMBROKE: 1,200 at Daugleddau on 23rd Jan and 1,200 at Sprinkle Pill on 1st March. The second winter maxima were 680 at Freshwater West on 23rd Dec and 2,000 near Ocean Haze in St. David's in November and December; CEREDIGION: In the Dyfi area recorded up to 7th May with a first winter peak of 800 at Ynys Tachwedd on 5th Jan and from 12th Sept with 1,150 near the Leri on 9th Dec. At Mwnt there were 1,000 on 3rd Nov; CAERNARFON: 700 at Porth Neigwl on 7th Nov; ANGLESEY: 460 at the Alaw estuary on 11th March and 430 on Rhosneigr Beach on 9th April. In the second winter period, 500+ were on fields at Trewan Common on 28th Dec.

Large counts (200+) from upland or inland sites were: CARMARTHEN: c.300 on Mynydd Llanllwni on 28th Feb and 211 at Garreg Lwyd on 14th April; CEREDIGION: 700 at Ty Gwyn pool on 19th Feb, 400 at Post Bach on 3rd Nov with 300 there on 20th Nov; BRECON: Peak count at Mynydd Illtyd was 227 on 13th Dec; RADNOR: 700 near Monaughty on 20th Nov. Continued increase in wintering numbers; MONTGOMERY: 200 at Corndon Hill on 14th March. In the autumn, 500 at Carno on 5th Nov.

GREY PLOVER *P. squatarola*

CWTIAD LLWYD

(C) A widespread and common winter visitor to Welsh estuaries and spring & autumn migrant. Wales – Red listed.

WeBS data show a considerable decline in wintering numbers in Wales since the 1980s, though this may now be levelling out. A WeBS long-term High Alert has been issued for Wales. The monthly max. at the main sites (40+ at least once) are tabulated as available.

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
GWENT												
Peterstone Wentlooge	20	40	1		1	1		1	1		3	16
CEREDIGION												
Dyfi estuary	33	42	17	2	1	-	1	1	10	13	12	8
ANGLESEY												
Alaw estuary		176			1			1			72	
FLINT												
Talacre		1	3						8	56		
Point of Ayr	2	1								50	30	14

Other large counts (40+) included: CAERNARFON: 68 at Y Foryd on 12th Jan; ANGLESEY: 142 at Holyhead Bay on 7th Jan.

LAPWING *Vanellus vanellus*

CORNCHWIGLEN

(C) *Rapidly declining breeder – almost extinct in many counties. Common winter visitor, principally in coastal areas. Wales – Red listed.*

The BTO Atlas shows that the Lapwing is in serious trouble as a breeding bird in Wales, with a marked contraction in range between 1988-91 and 2008-11, particularly in western counties. Breeding records received were: GWENT: Fewer breeding records than in years. At Peterstone Wentlooge on 17th May, one bird was on a nest and another pair was behaving as if a nest was nearby. Regular NWR surveys yielded 22 breeding territories, with 24 young fledging. No inland breeding records this year; E. GLAMORGAN: Confirmed breeding near Merthyr Tydfil with 8 ads and one juv plus 2 sitting birds on 21st May. Display at Kenfig NNR in March-April with 3 chicks on 8th June, and breeding confirmed at Llaniid, where 5 fledged juvs seen on 13th June, and at Parc Slip NR; CARMARTHEN: Three pairs bred at Penclacwydd, but no young were fledged. Bred at Cross Hands, Mynydd Sylen and Pembrey Saltings and pairs displaying at Cwmgwili and Mynydd Mallaen; PEMBROKE: No reports of breeding on the mainland. One pair bred on Ramsey, fledging one young; CEREDIGION: A pair at Glandwr in April, a pair nesting at Llyn Eiddwen and 56 pairs reared 59 young to fledging at Ynys-hir; BRECON: By recent standards, a successful breeding season with over 20 young chicks noted across five sites, including 5 pairs producing a max of 11 chicks at the rushy field, Llangorse. However, the number of chicks that actually fledged is unsubstantiated. Four exposed nests on potato ridges at Bronllys appeared to be successful; RADNOR: Perhaps still 20 pairs in the county; MONTGOMERY: Records of breeding came from close to Dolydd Hafren and there was a displaying pair near Montgomery on 20th March; MEIRIONNYDD: Llyn Trawsfynydd had at least one breeding pair with 2 adults and 2 half grown chicks on 24th June and adults with a three quarter grown chick on 8th July. 8 birds at Hafod Uchel on 31st March indicates a possible 4 pairs, however 3 pairs breeding here on 12th May, outcomes unknown; CAERNARFON: At Morfa Madryn, the species apparently had a much more successful breeding season than in 2013. At least 30 pairs were on territory in early May, though only 18 pairs were thought to have bred, with at least 12 broods of small young

around the reserve by late May, and some others in fields towards Morfa Aber. Overall, it seems likely that good numbers of chicks were fledged this year. The only breeding record away from this area was a nest near Penrhyn Bay on 30th May; ANGLESEY: 24 pairs raised 49 chicks at RSPB Malltraeth. 7 pairs were seen during the breeding season at RSPB Valley Wetlands and 8 young seen, but may have been from off-site; FLINT: During Apr to June there were 45 pairs breeding at RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands. Breeding was also confirmed near Padeswood.

WeBS counts show a decline of 13% in wintering numbers in Wales between 1984-5 and 2009-10, and a 29% decline between 2005-6 and 2009-10. A short-term Medium Alert has been issued for Wales. Regular counts at the main wintering areas (holding counts of 500 at least once) are tabulated as available.

		<i>Jan</i>	<i>Feb</i>	<i>Mar</i>	<i>Sept</i>	<i>Oct</i>	<i>Nov</i>	<i>Dec</i>
GWENT	Newport Wetlands	1,000	827	45	66	248	2,246	1,089
	Undy foreshore		1			8	27	540
CARMARTHEN	Pendacwydd	668	578	3	57	64	448	929
	Gwendraeth	2292	700	-	-	-	100	350
	Tywi	548	49	-	-	19	131	11
	Taf	1500	1000	-	6	211	130	580
PEMBROKE	Cleddau Est.	5075	2396			46	1702	2145
CEREDIGION	Dyfi Est.	1441	363	48	27	236	1200	1671
	Teifi est	1000	200					
MEIRIONNYDD	Broadwater	520	350	3	55	100+	0	-
CAERNARFON	Foryd Bay	1440	1000	0	56	190	410	130
	Traeth Lafan	800	350	50	83	107	501	250+
FLINT (Dee Est.)	White Sands	1100	920			41	850	
	Oakenholt	1000	40	1		4	200	

Other large flocks (500+) were: PEMBROKE: The maxima in the first winter period were 2,000 on the Carew River on 28th Jan, 1,900 at Carew and Cresswell on 20th Jan and 1,466 at Sprinkle Pill (Cleddau WeBS) on 18th Jan. In the second winter period up to 1,500 birds near Ocean Haze, St. Davids, in Nov and Dec, 2,000 at Castlemartin/Gupton and 927 at Sprinkle Pill (Cleddau WeBS) on 5th Dec; CAERNARFON: 620 at Llanengan on 17th Dec; ANGLESEY: 700 on the Cefni Estuary at Malltraeth on 6th Dec and 500+ were on fields at Trewan Common on 28th Dec; DENBIGH: The largest counts were during the early months with 800 at Trevalyn Meadows on 25th Jan, 1,070+ at Horton's Nose on 11th Feb and 2,500 at Trevalyn Meadows on 16th Jan. During the latter part of the year the maximum counts were much lower, max 600+ near Kinmel Bay on 16th Nov; FLINT: The largest counts were: 2,500+ S of Rhyl on 23rd Jan, 2,500 at RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands on 16th Feb and 3,000 there on 18th Feb. In the second winter period, 1,500 at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 16th Nov, 2,000 at Connah's Quay NR on 23rd Nov and 1,200+ S of Rhyl also on 23rd Nov.

LITTLE RINGED PLOVER *Charadrius dubius***CWTIAD TORCHOG BACH**

(C) *A summer visitor, breeding in small numbers on the gravel shoals of rivers in south and east Wales and on industrial sites in north-east Wales. Elsewhere it is an uncommon passage migrant.*

The Welsh population seems to be stable or increasing slightly. GWENT: The first bird of the year appeared at Goldcliff on 27th March, with a peak of eight here on 18th April. Three pairs bred at Goldcliff Lagoons. Away from NWR, one was seen at Gobion on 5th May though there were no reports of breeding here. At Cleppa Park, max 3 - two adults and a young bird - on 21st June. Post-breeding/autumn passage, max 16 at Goldcliff Lagoons on 16th and 23rd July, the latter including 12 fully-fledged juveniles. The last record was one at Goldcliff Lagoons on 8th Sept; E. GLAMORGAN: First reported on 27th March at Llanilid. Breeding was confirmed here with one pair seen with young, and 2 pairs alarm calling. Breeding was also confirmed on the new scrapes at Parc Slip NR where a pair was seen with 3 juvs and a further pair still sitting. Birds seen in the breeding season at Watermill flood, Rhaslas Pond and Kenfig Dunes. The latest reports were from Llanilid, where there were 5 juvs on 4th Aug; CARMARTHEN: One at Pentre-Davis on 11th March, the earliest ever arrival date for the county. 22 pairs bred along the Tywi between Dinefwr Ponds and Llanarthne. The last record was of a juv. at Pentre-Davis on 24th Aug. The only record outside of the Tywi valley was one at Penclacwydd on 26th and 28th April; PEMBROKE: Two at Marloes Mere on 5th Sept; CEREDIGION: 1-2 birds at several sites from 28th March to 4th May, with the only autumn record a juvenile at Ynys-hir on 29th and 30th Aug; BRECON: First returns were 2 at Llangasty on 28th March. Territorial males, or pairs, were present on shingle shoals at two riparian sites: Ffordd Fawr, 3 pairs straddling the Brecon-Radnor border probably bred, and by the River Usk (Scethrog) where an agitated male was seen on 22nd June. A pair probably bred on the Caerfanell inlet into Talybont Reservoir, with 3 there on 15th July indicating success. Checks at post-industrial sites revealed occupation at three sites within the Ystrad quarry complex, one successful with 4 small chicks on 25th June, and at two sites at Blaen Dyffryn quarry where behaviour of one pair indicated presence of chicks on 25th June; RADNOR: Four pairs at Glasbury/Llowes but much disturbed (all wholly in Radnorshire VC43); MONTGOMERY: Recorded from just 3 sites. Dolydd Hafren held up to 3 pairs, with successful breeding noted. The first record of the year from Dolydd Hafren was on 9th March with the last record on 15th Oct. A pair were seen on 26th March at a site further south on the River Severn; MEIRIONNYDD: First record for Llyn Trawsfynydd was a displaying bird on 31st May, 2 adults and a one third grown chick on 8th July, max 8 adults on 30th July and 3 immatures on 22nd Aug; CAERNARFON: One at Llanfairfechan on 24th April; ANGLESEY: One on the River Cefni at Malltraeth on 19th July and one at Malltraeth Marsh RSPB on 1st Sept; DENBIGH: Recorded in 5 1km squares, but no records of confirmed breeding. The first was one at RSPB Conwy on 29th March, and the maximum counts 3 at Llay Pool in April and early May; FLINT: Recorded in 5 1km squares. The first was one at Connah's Quay NR on 3rd April. The highest count was 3 NW of Rhuddlan on 20th April, from where came the only record of confirmed breeding, which was also the last record: a single on 5th Aug.

RINGED PLOVER *C. hiaticula***CWTIAD TORCHOG**

(C) A scarce breeder, concentrated principally in the north-west (Llyn peninsula and Anglesey) and the mid-section of the south coast. It is also a common passage migrant and winter visitor to all coastal areas. Wales – Amber listed.

Though breeding pairs have been lost in some areas following an increase in human disturbance, the population appears to be fairly stable elsewhere. Records of breeding or possible breeding were: GWENT: Breeding took place at St Bride's Wentlooge, where a nest with four eggs was found on 17th May, and one with three eggs near West Usk Lighthouse on 13th July, with possible breeding at Cleppa Park; CARMARTHEN: Bred at Pembrey Harbour where a pair with 4 young were seen on 30th June; CEREDIGION: Probably attempted to breed at Ynyslas with up to 14 present in June. Elsewhere, two pairs bred at Borth with a pair seen with two small chicks in July and a pair laid eggs at Drefach near Aberaeron but failed due to disturbance; MEIRIONNYDD: No breeding records, but some birds present in suitable habitat in June and July; CAERNARFON: Probably five pairs bred on Traeth Lafan between Wig and Morfa Madryn, with at least one pair fledging young. Elsewhere, two chicks were ringed north of Deganwy and one chick at Morfa Conwy, with a nest also recorded on West Shore, Llandudno. One pair bred on Bardsey, but failed owing to human disturbance, and there was possible breeding on Aberdaron beach; ANGLESEY: Two pairs bred at Cemlyn, but both failed at the egg stage. A pair raised 2 chicks on Traeth Crigyll, seen on 12th June, and a pair with 4 chicks (likely 2 broods) were seen on 19th. A pair on Ynys Llanddwyn had one chick, also bred on Rhosneigr beach; DENBIGH: There were four records of confirmed breeding near Kinmel Bay and at Pensarn; FLINT: There were records of confirmed breeding from near Gronant and Talacre with a single nestling ringed on 10th July near Gronant.

A WeBS long-term High Alert has been issued for Wales following a 60% decline in wintering numbers between 1984-5 and 2009-10. Larger numbers of passage birds are sometimes recorded. The monthly max. at the main sites (holding counts of 100 at least once) are tabulated as available.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
GWENT												
Newport WR	20	2		20	35	2	21	129	30	36	28	14
CARMARTHEN												
Pembrey Harbour	45	61	10	-	-	4	12	20	137	122	130	139
C Sidan/Tywyn Pt.	-	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	100	-	-	-
CEREDIGION												
Dyfi estuary	6	1	2	196	260	14	42	350	186	82	21	5
CAERNARFON												
Pwllheli harbour	5		4	4	16	5		100	5	17	1	
Traeth Lafan	23	45	4	11	4	4	8	146	65	98	112	22
FLINT												
Gronant		35	32		140	8	32	60	4		11	
Point of Ayr	10			4		4		200	50	80		

Other large counts (100+) were: E. GLAMORGAN: 130 at Traeth-yr-Afon, Merthyr Mawr, on 14th Aug; MEIRIONNYDD: 100 at Llandanwg on 19th Aug; ANGLESEY: 100+ at Traeth Dulas on 19th May; FLINT: 150+ S of Rhyl on 19th Aug.

Records in inland counties were: BRECON: Two at Llangasty on 2nd May. On autumn passage, singles were noted at Llangasty on 11th and 19th Aug and on 1st Sept: MONTGOMERY: Passage records from Lake Vyrnwy on 2nd April and Dolydd Hafren on 12th April.

KENTISH PLOVER *C. alexandrinus*

PIBYDD CAINT

(A) Vagrant, on WRP list.

The only record this year was a juvenile at Crymlyn Burrows GOWER on 18th - 20th Oct.

DOTTEREL *C. morinellus*

HUTAN Y MYNYDD

(A) An occasional breeder, otherwise a regular but uncommon migrant in spring and autumn.

Spring records were: BRECON: 2 were photographed at less than 5 metres range on 18th April on Twr Pen-cyrn, Mynydd Llangatwg; CAERNARFON: There were two on the Great Orme on 12th-13th April and one here on 26th May. In the Carneddau, there were two on Foel Grach on 28th April and 7 on Foel Fras on 4th May; ANGLESEY: One at The Range on 4th - 5th May.

On return passage: CARMARTHEN: Two at Garreg Lwyd on 23rd Aug; PEMBROKE: Three on Dale Airfield on 2nd Sept, then a single bird flew over Martin's Haven on 14th Sept, at least one bird on Skokholm on 21st Sept and three juveniles at Dale Airfield on 4th Oct; BRECON: One on the western edge of the Corn Du plateau on 26th Sept; CAERNARFON: One on the Great Orme on 31st Aug - 1st Sept, one here on 6th Sept and one on 19th - 20th Sept.

WHIMBREL *Numenius phaeopus*

COEGYLFNIR

(C) Locally common in coastal counties on spring and autumn passage, scarce inland, small numbers occasionally over-winter. Wales – Amber listed.

Birds on passage were recorded from 9th March and until 20th Nov, with small numbers recorded at several sites during June. The monthly max. at the main sites (holding counts of 40 at least once) are tabulated.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
E. GLAMORGAN												
Rumney Gt Whrf				51	124			6				
CAERNARFON												
Bardsey	1	1	1	46	44	4	8	38	5	3	1	1
ANGLESEY												
Cemlyn	1	1	1	56	74	1	1				1	1

Other large counts (40+) were: GWENT: Max 49 at Goldcliff Point in May; CARMARTHEN: 190 at Pwll on 5th May; PEMBROKE: 110 at the Gann on 13th May, 67 at Fishguard on 4th May and 56 at Martletwy on 3rd May. Return passage peaked with 247 past Strumble on 11th Aug; MONTGOMERY: A good passage of birds at the Upper Dyfi Estuary late April-early May with 100 per day passing through in May and a max 150 counted on 9th May; MEIRIONNYDD: 51 at Aberdysynni on 23rd April; CAERNARFON: 100 at Porth Ysgaden on 1st May with 50 here on 6th May and 44 at Criccieth on 7th May.

Wintering records were: PEMBROKE: One at Skokholm on 6th March is thought to have overwintered; CEREDIGION: One seen on the Clettwr on 17th Oct remained on the Dyfi to the end of the year; CAERNARFON: One bird spent the first winter period on Bardsey, apparently remaining until mid-April, and one at Llanbedrog on 1st March was probably also wintering. One bird again remained on Bardsey through Novr and Dec; ANGLESEY: One spent the first winter period at Cemlyn, staying into April, with one here again on 27th Dec.

Inland records were: E. GLAMORGAN: One at Llanilid on 5th Aug; CEREDIGION: One at Cors Caron on 19th April; BRECON: A series of sightings at Llangorse Lake, with one heard over Llangorse Common on 27th April, one at Llangasty on 5th May, with 2 the next day. Another joined a flock of Curlew there over the period 9th-12th May; MONTGOMERY: 6 at Dolydd Hafren on 4th April, with singletons also there on 30th April, 14th & 17th May.

CURLEW *N. arquatus*

GYLFINIR

(C) A fairly abundant and widespread but declining breeding species throughout most of Wales but local in Pembroke and the coastal fringe of south Wales. It is an abundant winter visitor to coastal areas, where small numbers are present all year round. Very small numbers winter inland. Wales – Red listed.

BBS population trends for Wales show a 57% decrease between 1995 and 2013, the second-largest decline recorded for any species. Records of breeding or possible breeding were: GWENT: No records of even possible breeding; E. GLAMORGAN: No confirmed breeding reports nor display activity, but birds present in the Bargoed area during the breeding season, and 2 pairs at Rhaslas Pond on 20th May; CARMARTHEN: Birds were present during the breeding season at Cilycwm and near Talley; PEMBROKE: The only report of breeding involved 3 pairs on Skomer; CEREDIGION: During the breeding season reports came from Cors Ian NR, Lledrod, Ffair Rhos, Cors Caron, Glandwr and near Nant y

Moch; BRECON: During the breeding season, 1-3 displaying birds were seen or heard at 14 sites, but breeding was not confirmed at any of these locations; RADNOR: Probably 40-45 pairs still judging from sample surveys; MONTGOMERY: Scattered breeding attempts were reported but Curlew, like Lapwing, are struggling to retain a breeding population in the county; MEIRIONNYDD: A pair at Craignant, Llyn Celyn on 25th April and one calling from moorland to the south of Llyn Tanygrisiau on 6th May. One bubbling to the south of Llyn Trawsfynydd on 31st May was on territory. 1-2 pairs on an area of moorland west of Bala, outcome unknown. Birds suspected of breeding at Moel Ty Uchaf (Llandrillo), Berwyn Geufron, Hendwr, Sirior, Cadwst and Hafod Uchel, all on Berwyn; CAERNARFON: Two pairs around Gwaen Gynfi on 22nd April and a pair above Cwm Pennant on 13th May were probably breeding, as was a vocal bird at Fron on the Migneint on 11th June. A pair thought to be on territory at Cadlan Isaf, Aberdaron, on 30th June and two birds at Llynau Mymbyr on 5th June; ANGLESEY: One pair at RSPB Malltraeth; DENBIGH: Seven records of probable breeding but only two of confirmed breeding: near Llyn Brenig and Fenn's Moss; FLINT: There was one record of possible breeding near Trelawnyd.

WeBS counts show a moderate decline in the numbers wintering in Wales in the period 1984-5 to 2009-10, with a medium-term Medium Alert issued following a 32% decline in the 10 years up to 2009-10. The monthly max. at the main sites (holding counts of 500 at least once) are tabulated.

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
GWENT												
Undy foreshore	400	680	280	400	1			410	96	7	127	278
CARMARTHEN												
Penlacwydd	103	30	500	482	383	300	44	672	807	862	659	500
PEMBROKE												
Cleddau Est	431	331	170						421	313	598	496
CEREDIGION												
Dyfi Est.	534	592	269	-	45	-	361	251	452	676	500	613
CAERNARFON												
Traeth Lafan	1981	2206	720	141	45	295	1590	1400	918	880	1109	1077
FLINT												
Point of Ayr	400	350	700	220	109	200	1000	1500	1000	1500	700	

BLACK-TAILED GODWIT *Limosa limosa*

RHOSTOG GYNFFONDDU

(C) A common spring and autumn passage migrant, common in winter at some sites. Wales – Amber listed.

WeBS data show a large increase in numbers wintering in Wales between 1984-5 and 2004-5, followed by a decline of 56% between 2005-6 and 2009-10. A short-term High Alert has been issued for Wales. Monthly max. at the main sites (50+ at least once) were:

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
GWENT												
Newport Wetlands	1		24	117	27	22	50	43	72	6	39	4
CARMARTHEN												
Penclacwydd	103	30	500	482	383	300	44	672	807	862	659	500
CAERNARFON												
Traeth Lafan	3	55	2	8		0	8	1	3	5	3	2
DENBIGH												
RSPB Conwy	50	6	8	45	2		42	10	90	25		23
FLINT (Dee estuary)												
Point of Ayr			2					7	82	3000	2500	
Oakenholt		6		15	15			46	40	80	1200	500

Numbers in FLINT were noted to be much lower than in 2013. Other large counts (50+) were: GWENT: 66 at Nash Pools on 15th April; CARMARTHEN: 65 at the Taf estuary in February, 51 at Morfa Bacas on 5th Nov; PEMBROKE: 70 at Cosheston Pill on 28th Feb, 98 at Pembroke River on 20th Oct and 100 at Pembroke Upper Mill Pond on 1st Nov; FLINT: 410 near Llanerch-y-Mor on 19th Jan and 223 at Flint on 31st July.

Inland records were: BRECON: Two moulting into winter plumage at Llangasty on 29th July. One was also there from 30th Oct – 2nd Nov; RADNOR: 6 at Llowes on 24th July.

BAR-TAILED GODWIT *L. lapponica*

RHOSTOG GYNFFONFRITH

(C) A common passage migrant and winter visitor, more numerous in autumn than spring. Rare away from the coasts. Wales – Red listed.

WeBS data show a considerable decline in wintering numbers in Wales since the 1980s, with a 60% decline between the 1984-5 winter and the 2009-10 winter, though this may now be levelling out. A WeBS long-term High Alert has been issued for Wales. Small numbers occur in most coastal counties. Monthly max. at the main sites (50+ at least once) are tabulated as available.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
PEMBROKE												
Cleddau Est	21	73							6	123	71	9
CAERNARFON												
Foryd	54	47	6	1					2	3	4	0
ANGLESEY												
Alaw estuary		187					6			6	65	85
FLINT												
Point of Ayr	15			5		6	3	10	5	16	50	

Large counts elsewhere were: ANGLESEY: 64 in Holyhead Bay on 7th Jan. Inland records were: BRECON: A spring migrant was at Llangasty Point on 25th May.

TURNSTONE *Arenaria interpres***CWTIAD Y TRAETH**

(C) An abundant wader on the coast, a passage migrant in spring and autumn but most numerous and widespread in winter. A few non-breeding birds are present throughout the summer. It is rare inland. Wales – Amber listed.

WeBS data shows a considerable decline in wintering numbers in Wales since the 1980s. A WeBS long-term High Alert and a short-term Medium Alert have been issued for Wales; there was a 76% drop between the 1984-5 winter and the 2009-10 winter, though the decline may have bottomed out in recent years. The monthly max. at the main sites (holding counts of 50 at least once) are tabulated below as available.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
E. GLAMORGAN												
Sker Pt area	17	53	40	15	9	-	37	50	20	83	8	23
CARMARTHEN												
Burry Port Harbour								29	86	55		
PEMBROKE												
Cleddau Est. WeBS	41	49	58						1	56	17	44
CAERNARFON												
Bardsey	26	25	11	5	18	1	22	53	60	37	22	16
Foryd Bay	80	40	70	5				30	78	60	120	60
Rhos Point	250+	45	111	110	50		21	89	189		302	40
Traeth Lafan	145	87	22	102		0	0	49	78	119	167	101

Other counts of 50 or more were: CAERNARFON: 50 at the Little Orme on 2nd Jan. In the second winter period, 56 were by Llandudno pier on 15th Dec with 80 here on 29th Dec; DENBIGH: 50+ at Rhos-on-Sea on 2nd March and 111 there on 15th March. In the second half of the year 170+ near Kinnel Bay on 27th July, 300+ there on 20th Aug and 215+ on 2nd Sept. Numbers were noted to be very low in GWENT this year.

Inland records were: DENBIGH: A single at Llyn Aled Isaf on 13th May.

KNOT *Calidris canutus***PIBYDD YR ABER**

(C) An abundant winter visitor to some of the major estuaries, notably the Dee, Burry, Traeth Lafan and Severn. Relatively scarce on other estuaries. It is also an uncommon passage migrant in spring & autumn and it is rare inland. Wales – Amber listed.

WeBS counts show a 38% decline in wintering numbers in Wales between 1984-5 and 2009-10, and long-term and short-term Medium Alerts have been issued for Wales. The monthly max. at the main sites (holding counts of 300 at least once) are tabulated as available.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
GWENT												
Undy foreshore								6	5		300	
Newport Wetlands	40	1000		1	1		1	9	18	53	1	2
Peterstone Wentl.	1270							4	12	10		3
CARMARTHEN												
Penclacwydd	2000	450	4	26	2	1	4	69	220	219	640	1200
C Sidan/Tywyn Pt.	8	850	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	113
CAERNARFON												
Foryd	360	30								2		1
FLINT												
Point of Ayr	200	40	100						22	500	700	600

The maximum count in FLINT was noted to be very low compared with the average for recent years. Inland records were: BRECON: One in winter plumage at Llangasty Point on 28th Feb.

RUFF *Philomachus pugnax*

PIBYDD TORCHOG

(B) A fairly common passage migrant in small numbers, principally in autumn. Occasionally winters. Wales – Amber listed.

Approximate monthly totals were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
GWENT				2	2	1	1	3	10	9	1	
E. GLAMORGAN								6				
CARMARTHEN				1				2	4		1	
PEMBROKE					1		2		6	2	1	
CEREDIGION								2	3	1		
BRECON									1			
MONTGOMERY				2								
MEIRIONNYDD												
CAERNARFON					1				8			
ANGLESEY				1			2	7	7			
DENBIGH			1	1				1-2		3		

Elsewhere, FLINT: The first 'autumn' record was 5 at Flint saltmarsh on 31st July and there were mainly 1-4 until the end of Sept with a maximum of 6 on 17th Sept at Shotwick rifle range. The last autumn record was a single S of Rhyl on 21st Sept. There was a very late record of 2 at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 22nd Dec.

The highest counts were 4 juvs at Penclacwydd CARMARTHEN throughout Sept, 4 flying past Bardsey CAERNARFON on 4th Sept and 4 at Malltraeth Marsh ANGLESEY over 10th-21st Sept.

CURLEW SANDPIPER *Calidris ferruginea*

PIBYDD CAMBIG

(B) *An uncommon passage migrant to coastal areas, recorded in every month but principally in autumn, relatively numerous in some years. Rare inland.*

Most autumn records are usually of juveniles, and numbers vary from year to year, partly dependent on how successful the breeding season has been. There is no clear long-term trend. 2014 was not a particularly good year. GWENT: Singles at NWR Goldcliff Lagoons on 20th, 25th and 27th April, possibly the same bird. One on Monks Lagoon on 18th May, with two on 19th May. The first autumn passage bird was at NWR Goldcliff Lagoons on 3rd Aug with another on 10th Aug, but the main passage was in Sept, beginning with a bird on 1st with numbers building to two on 2nd Sept, 7 on 6th, 5 on 7th and 8th and 8 on 9th Sept. A single bird was present on 12th and then on four dates between 14th and 30th Sept. In Oct, single birds on four dates to the 7th. Elsewhere, one was at Collister Pill on 13th Sept; E. GLAMORGAN: Up to 4 at Ogmore Est from 13th to 23rd Sept, one at Sker mussel beds on 21st Sept and 2 at Newton Pt, Porthcawl, on 23rd Sept; CARMARTHEN: The only spring record was of one at Penclacwydd on 28th April. The first autumn records were from Kidwelly Quay with 2 on both 30th Aug and 5th Sept. All the other records were from Penclacwydd with 8 on both 6th and 16th - 24th Sept, 2 from 28th - 30th and 3rd Oct with one on 19th Oct the last record of the year; PEMBROKE: Singles at Angle Bay on 27th Aug and 14th Sept, one at the Teifi Est on 13th - 14th Sept and two at the Nevern Est on 14th - 15th Sept; CEREDIGION: In spring, one at Ynyslas on 16th - 17th April, one on the Teifi est. on 24th May and one at Ynyslas on 29th May. In autumn, two at Ynyslas on 6th Aug then seen in small numbers there from 27th Aug to 3rd Oct with a peak count of 6 on 12th Sept. Elsewhere, one on the Teifi est. on 13th Sept; CAERNARFON: On Traeth Lafan there was one at Morfa Madryn on 12th Sept then on 21st Sept two at Aber Ogwen and another two at Morfa Aber. In the Porthmadog area, on the county border with Meirionnydd, there were 4 on 19th Sept; ANGLESEY: 3 at Malltraeth Cefni Estuary on 2nd Sept, 7 on 8th, 9 on 9th, 6 on 11th with 5 on 22nd, 3 on 24th. 2 were on Malltraeth Cob Pools on 1st Sept, 3 on 2nd, 7 on 8th and 6 on 11th. 4 were on the Alaw Estuary 28-29th Aug, singles on 5th and 9th Sept, with two on 14th and one there on 18th Oct. 8 were at Cemlyn on 13th Sept; DENBIGH: There was one spring record of a single at RSPB Conwy on 27th April. In autumn, birds were recorded here from 9th Aug to 10th Oct, max 3 in Sept. There was one inland record near Denbigh on 14th Sept; FLINT: The first record was a single S of Rhyl on 9th Sept and most records were of 1-3 with 4 in the same area on 21st Sept. The last record was a single there on 5th Oct.

SANDERLING *Calidris alba*

PIBYDD Y TYWOD

(C) *A winter visitor, locally common on sandy beaches. A spring & autumn migrant on the coast. Scarce inland. Wales – Amber listed.*

In contrast to many waders, WeBS data show an increase in numbers of Sanderling wintering in Wales, with a 113% increase between 1984-5 and 2009-10. The monthly max. at the main sites (holding counts of 50 at least once) are tabulated as available.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
E. GLAMORGAN												
Kenfig Sands	58		53	66	128		54	100	134		61	27
CARMARTHEN												
Pembrey Harbour	16	30	5	-	-	-	127	-	-	12	200	-
C Sidan/Tywyn Pt.	1110	200	123	100	200	-	-	100	44	-	-	400
MEIRIONNYDD												
Glaslyn/Dwyrdd	80	0	0	0	-	-	-	-	0	0	0	100
CAERNARFON												
Black Rock	70		16		10					25	5	2

Other large flocks (50+) were E. GLAMORGAN: 87 at Sker Pt on 30th July and 50 at Traeth-yr-Afon beach on 14th Aug; PEMBROKE: 56 at Freshwater West on 30th May; ANGLESEY: 94 on Traeth Crigyll on 22nd May and 79 at the Alaw Estuary on 24th May; DENBIGH: The largest count was a flock of 600+ near Towyn on 16th Feb. In the second winter period, 200+ at Kinmel Bay on 25th Nov, 290+ there on 9th Dec and the last record of the year was 73+ at Towyn on 28th Dec; FLINT: 200+ near Gronant on 30th April, 300 at Point of Ayr on 31st March and 2nd May. The first of 'autumn' was 70+ near Gronant on 26th July, then 100+ near Gronant on 28th July and 141 at Point of Ayr on 22nd Nov.

DUNLIN *Calidris alpina*

PIBYDD Y MAWN

(C) *A scarce and local breeder, restricted to a few poorly drained upland moors with scattered pools. An abundant passage migrant and winter visitor. Wales – Red listed.*

The Welsh breeding population is very small and probably declining, though there may be some under-recording as breeding sites are often in remote uplands. Records of breeding or possible breeding were: BRECON: Only one breeding site was checked; a single was present in good habitat in the south of the county on 30th April; RADNOR: At least 5 reeling males at two sites; MEIRIONNYDD: 3 on Llyn Trawsfynydd on 31st May. and an adult at Cadwst, Berwyn on 30th June, but no evidence of breeding.

Numbers wintering in Wales have shown a consistent downward trend since the mid-1980s, and a WeBS long-term Medium Alert has been issued following a decrease of 43% between 1984-5 and 2009-10. Monthly max. at the main sites (holding counts of 1,000 at least once) are tabulated as available.

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
GWENT												
Newport Wetlands	2900	2,000	150	350	200	3	100	120	30	42	1140	150
Peterstone Wentl.	750	16		5				1	11	41		1150
Undy	1800	500	27	45	3			13	32	200		177
CARMARTHEN												
Penclacwydd	1190	1500	211	86	14	30	46	3	190	20	890	1225
PEMBROKE												
Cleddau Est.	1070	1555	9						81	21	1269	2071
CAERNARFON												
Traeth Lafan	3000	180	8	40	35	0	12	15	265	26	1000+	1800
FLINT (Dee est)												
Point of Ayr	300			2			20	100	200	350	500	5000
Oakenholt Marsh	1000	100	1				1	7	15	7500	70	10000

Large flocks elsewhere included: FLINT: 1,000+ at Talacre on 19th Jan. Counts in FLINT were noted to be much higher than in 2013.

Records from inland counties included: BRECON: One in winter plumage was at Brechfa Pool on 30th Jan and two there on 25th March. Singles were at Llangasty on 16th March and 16th April, and a flock of 15 in summer plumage near Llangorse Common on 11th May. On autumn passage, recorded only at Llangasty, with 1-2 birds recorded on many dates from 15th Aug to 10th Nov; RADNOR: Passage records of 1-9 birds from six sites in April, May, June, Aug and Sept; MONTGOMERY: Spring passage singletons at Dolydd Hafren (23rd April, 6th & 20th May), Lake Vyrnwy (2nd April & 8th May), and Llyn Coed y Dinas (15th May).

PURPLE SANDPIPER *Calidris maritima*

PIBYDD DU

(C) A fairly common winter visitor in small numbers to coastal areas with rocky shorelines.

This species is found mainly on rocky shores, and is not well covered by WeBS counts. There are indications of a decline in numbers at several traditional sites. The monthly max. at the main sites (holding counts of 10 at least once) are tabulated as available:

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun	Jul	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
E. GLAMORGAN												
Ogmore	7	10	9								6	8+
Sker Pt	3	11	14	21	2						2	5
CAERNARFON												
Bardsey	25	11	8	21	30	0	9	15	9	5	16	6
Rhos Point	10	15	14								9	8
ANGLESEY												
Trearddur Bay	18											21

Other large counts (10+) were: CEREDIGION: At Aberystwyth seen regularly to 17th May with a max count of 12 on 6th Feb and from 29th Oct to the end of the year with 10 on a number of dates; DENBIGH: 10+ at Rhos-on-sea on 2nd Jan. These are probably the same birds as those given under Rhos Point CAERNARFON in the table; the county boundary runs through Rhos-on-sea. There was a surprising record of presence at Rhyl FLINT on 24th Jan, but the number of birds was not noted.

LITTLE STINT *Calidris minuta*

PIBYDD BACH

(B) *An uncommon passage migrant in small numbers to coastal areas, principally in autumn and has occasionally wintered. It is rare inland.*

GWENT: A winter-plumaged bird at NWR Goldcliff on 20th April and possibly the same on 25th and 27th April. One here on 8th May, with two the next day. Autumn passage here began with singles on 3rd and 10th Aug. The main passage was in Sept, with one on 1st, then 7 on 6th Sept, 5 on 7th - 8th and 8 on 9th Sept. All of these were first-year birds. Single birds were seen on many dates between 12th Sept and 7th Oct. Away from Goldcliff, two at Portland Grounds on 2nd Sept and one at Collister Pill on 13th Sept; E. GLAMORGAN: A juv was at Traeth-yr-Afon, Ogmore, on 14th Aug; CARMARTHEN: Singles at Carmarthen Bay Caravan Site on 8th Sept, Kidwelly Quay on 16th and at Penclacwydd on 18th and 30th, with 2 there from 24th - 27th and also on 1st - 3rd Oct; PEMBROKE: A single at Nevern Est on 14th Sept and two there on 15th Sept, two at Marloes Mere on 15th - 16th Sept and two at the Teifi est in mid Sept. All other reports referred to single birds: on Skomer on 5th - 6th & 12th Sept and on Skokholm on 21st & 23rd Sept and 17th - 19th Oct; CEREDIGION: A reasonably good autumn for this species began with one at Ynys-hir on 30th Aug. There were two on Teifi est on 7th Sept, a juvenile at Ynys-hir on 9th Sept, one at Ynyslas on several dates between 9th Sept and 3rd Oct, one at Ynys-hir on 10th Oct and a very late bird at Ynys-hir on 12th Nov; MEIRIONNYDD: Two on the edge of Aber Dysynni salt pool on 31st July and one on the Broadwater on 7th Sept; ANGLESEY: At Cemlyn a summer-plumaged individual was seen on the beach between the 23rd and 25th May, and one here on 13th Sept. Singles at Llanfachraeth on 29th Aug, the Alaw estuary on 9th Sept and at Malltraeth on 11th Sept; DENBIGH: All the records were at RSPB Conwy where birds were recorded from 6th Sept to 8th Oct. Counts were of 1-5 with 6 on 13th Sept; FLINT: Records were from Rhyl or on the Afon Clwyd, S of Rhyl: a single on 4th Oct, 3 on 7th Oct and 2 on 19th Oct.

PECTORAL SANDPIPER *Calidris melanotos*

PIBYDD CAIN

(A) *A scarce visitor, on WRP list.*

GWENT: An adult at NWR on 27th - 28th May and a juvenile at Goldcliff on 24th Sept remaining into October; CAERNARFON: A first calendar-year bird was at Morfa Madryn from 14th to 22nd Sept.

GREY PHALAROPE *Phalaropus fulicarius*

LLYDANDROED LLWYD

(B) *An uncommon and irregular passage migrant, predominantly to coastal areas and in the period September – October.*

Numbers vary from year to year, partly depending on weather conditions in autumn. GWENT: After prolonged storms during the first few weeks of Oct, one at Sluice Farm on 11th Oct; E. GLAMORGAN: One at Rumney Great Wharf on 11th Oct, the same bird as under Gwent; PEMBROKE: Strumble Head recorded nine birds this year, singles on 11th and 29th Aug, 3rd and 7th Nov with the maximum day count being five on 21st Oct. Ramsey had one fly south on 4th Oct and two on 21st Oct; CEREDIGION: One was at Llanrhystud on 7th Oct; MEIRIONNYDD: One present on the sea near Boston Lodge, Porthmadog Cob, on 26th Oct and one on the sea at Mochras on 15th Nov; CAERNARFON: One well photographed bird was at Glan y Mor Elias from 28th Sept to 11th Oct, and there was one at Morfa Aber on 7th – 8th Nov. There was one at the Glaslyn Marshes on the county border on 26th Oct and Bardsey recorded 6 on 21st Oct and one on 11th Nov.

COMMON SANDPIPER *Actitis hypoleucos*

PIBYDD Y DORLAN

(C) *A summer visitor that breeds in all counties except Pembroke, though only sporadically on Anglesey and Flint. Very small numbers over-winter. Wales – Amber listed.*

Breeding records for this species are incomplete, but there are indications of a decline in numbers, at least in some areas. GWENT: No positive breeding records, but two birds on the R. Monnow near Oldcastle, 'alarming' as if there were young nearby, were almost certainly breeding. Surveys on the rest of the Monnow, of locations which traditionally held breeding pairs, drew a blank; CEREDIGION: Records of breeding pairs at Ynys-hir, near Soar y Mynydd, Llyn Syfydrin, Teifi pools and Llyn Fyrddon. However, it was a poor breeding season generally with none on 8km of the river Camddwr in June where there were four pairs in 2013; BRECON: Best territory densities were noted in June, with 4 pairs on the Wye (Llanwrthwl to Hodrid) on 5th, and 4-5 pairs well spread on the Usk (Llansantffraed to Pencelli) on 22nd. A nest with three eggs was found by the Usk at Sennybridge, at a site where a nest was found in the 1970s. Single pairs probably bred on the Irfon (Esgaer Irfon), at Llyn Brianne (Esgaer Garn), Cwm Llia (2), Cantref Reservoir, Afon Tawe at Craig-y-nos CP, Crai Reservoir and at Talybont Reservoir; MONTGOMERY: Lake Vyrnwy held at least 5 pairs and breeding was confirmed, although high water levels are thought to have had some detrimental impact. Also bred at Dolydd Hafren with a max count of 10 birds on 25th May. Further records came from the River Vyrnwy at Llansantffraid-ym-Mechain, Llandinam Gravels, Pontrobert and Llyn Coed y Dinas; MEIRIONNYDD: Probably at least 3 pairs on Llyn Trawsfynydd and 3 pairs on Llyn Tanygrisiau with a minimum of 3 chicks. On the Mawddach, pairs at Abergwynant, Penmaenpool and Garth Isaf. On Afon Glaslyn a pair with a juv at Beddgelert and a pair at Pont Croesor. A displaying pair on the Dwyrdd Estuary, and a pair on Afon Artro at Llanbedr. A pair at Rhagett and birds also recorded in the breeding season at Llynnau Gamallt and on the Afon Lliw at Blaen Lliw. 6 birds on Llyn Tegid on 17th July; CAERNARFON: There were four pairs around Llyn Conwy on 15th May and at least four territories here on 25th June, 3 territories along the south and east sides of Llyn Dinas on

4th June and two pairs at Llyn Cwellyn on 22nd June, at least one with young. A pair with young were at Llyn-y-dywarthen on 22nd June and three birds including recently fledged young on Llyn Gwynant on 26th June. There was also probable breeding at Llynau Mymbyr, where adults were giving anxiety calls on 5th June and 7th July. On the rivers, there were fledged young in Nant Ffrancon on 23rd June, and several pairs bred in Nant Peris, with at least two pairs above Nantperis village in late June and a pair with two young near the village on 5th July. Birds were also present in the breeding season on Afon Lledr, on Nant-y-gwryd below the lakes, on Afon Glaslyn, at Llyn Bodgynydd and on Llyn Padarn; DENBIGH: There were no records of confirmed breeding.

Passage was recorded from 9th March and until 28th Oct. Passage max. GWENT: Max 6 at NWR Goldcliff Lagoons on 13th, 26th and 30th July, with a peak of 6 at NWR in Aug and Sept; E. GLAMORGAN: On spring passage, max 6 at Cosmeston CP on 22nd April, and on return passage max 8 at Ogmere Est on 1st Aug; CARMARTHEN: 8 at Sandy W.P. on 7th July; PEMBROKE: 10 at Bosherton on 5th July; CEREDIGION: 6 at Borth on 28th June and 7 on the Teifi est on 9th July; BRECON: Flocks of 11 on mud by the upper Towy bridge (Llyn Brienne) on 27th June, and at Ffordd Fawr on 5th July, included many juveniles raised locally; MEIRIONNYDD: 7 at the Broadwater in July; CAERNARFON: The highest counts were on return passage on Bardsey, where there were 17 on 21st July and 18 on 26th July; ANGLESEY: 10 at Cemlyn on 4th May, 8 at the Alaw estuary on 6th Aug; DENBIGH: 12 at RSPB Conwy on 25th July; FLINT: The largest count was 5 near Talacre on 13th July.

Records of wintering or possibly wintering birds were GWENT: One on Wentwood Reservoir on 30th Jan. In the second winter period, singles at Gobion/The Bryn and on the River Usk from Newbridge to Llanllowell in Nov and two at NWR in Dec; E. GLAMORGAN: One on R. Rhymney at Newport Rd on 15th Jan, and one at Barry Docks on 10th Feb; CARMARTHEN: In the early winter period there was one at Kidwelly Quay on 7th Feb. There was a late winter record of one at North Dock, Llanelli on 25th Dec; PEMBROKE: One at St Dogmaels on the Teifi Estuary between 1st Jan and 15th Feb. In the second winter period an exceptional count of five at Little Milford on 25th Nov and two at Castle Pill on 25th Dec, with singles in December at Carew and Cresswell, Cosheston Pill, Lawrenny and Sandy Haven Pill; CEREDIGION: During the first winter period, a single bird at the Teifi est. until 15th Feb. One at Aberystwyth on 30th Nov was probably a wintering bird as was one at Ynys-hir on 9th Dec; MONTGOMERY: Single birds on the River Severn at Caersws on 29th Nov and at Llyn Coed y Dinas on 30th Nov; MEIRIONNYDD: One at Ynys, Harlech on 16th Jan; CAERNARFON: A bird at Borth y Gest on 18th Nov; DENBIGH: There were three records of a single at RSPB Conwy on 6th – 9th Dec; FLINT: A single near Rhuddlan on 28th Dec.

GREEN SANDPIPER *Tringa ochropus*

PIBYDD GWYRDD

(C) A regular passage migrant and winter visitor in small numbers to all counties.

Numbers may have declined in some counties, though the overall trend in Wales is uncertain as there can be considerable annual variation. Wintering records were: GWENT: All first winter records were on the River Usk, with one at Gobion in Jan and 6 here on 20th

Feb, four at Llanellen on 22nd March and singles in March at Pant-y-goitre and Llanllowell to Newbridge. In the second winter period, two between Llanllowell to Newbridge in Nov and Dec, and on the River Monnow two at Kentchurch in Nov and one at Llangua in Dec; E. GLAMORGAN: On the R. Ely at Pendoylan/Peterston, max 4 in January, 2 in Feb and 3 in March. Elsewhere, Hendre Lake had singles on 14th Jan and 28th March, and there was one at Lisvane Res on 31st March. In the second winter period, max 5 at Pendoylan/Peterston in Nov and 4 in Dec. Hendre Lake had one on several dates from 25th Nov to 17th Dec; CARMARTHEN: In the early winter period there were 2 at both White Bridge, Carmarthen on 5th Jan and at Kidwelly Quay through the month, with one at Cilsan Bridge on 22nd. The only records in the late winter period were from Dryslwyn with 3 on 2nd Dec and one on 4th; PEMBROKE: One overwintered at Sealyham into April. In the second winter period, two wintered here from 12th Sept and there were two at the iron bridge on the Nevern Est on 13th Dec; BRECON: Sightings of two wintering birds came from Camlais Brook (Mynydd Illtyd) on 31st Jan, and then regularly in the second winter period. Two were seen on 10th Oct, these remaining into 2015. At least 4 birds, possibly 6, probably wintered along the Usk at Scethrog - Pencelli, noted on 28th Dec; MONTGOMERY: Regularly seen at Dolydd Hafren, max count 9 on 11th Dec. Also records of wintering birds on the River Vyrnwy with 2 near Llansantffraid-ym-Mechain on 13th Nov, one there on 11th March; MEIRIONNYDD: 3 at Penrhyndeudraeth sewage works on 13th Jan with one on 29th Jan. One on the Dwyrdd Estuary on 10th Nov; ANGLESEY: One at Morfa Mawr, Malltraeth, on 20th Jan. In the second winter period, 2 over the new bridge at the Valley tidal gates on 18th Nov and 1st Dec and one at the Alaw estuary on 1st Dec; DENBIGH: The last of the five early year records was a single at Fenn's Moss on 17th March. In the second winter period 2 near Llandyrnog on 29th Nov and 7th Dec; FLINT: A single was at Fagl Lane between 21st Jan and 10th Feb, 2 at Connah's Quay on 30th Nov and 2 at Flint saltmarsh on 16th Dec.

Passage maxima were: GWENT: 4 at Llanwern steelworks on 30th July; E. GLAMORGAN: Max 8 on the R. Ely at Pendoylan/Peterston in August; CARMARTHEN: Spring records from 13th March to 17th April, max 3 at Dryslwyn on 16th March. Autumn passage from 24th June to 5th Sept, max 4 at Penclacwydd on 4th July; PEMBROKE Two were present at Millin Pill on 6th April, with spring passage to 2nd May. Return passage from 19th June to 14th Sept. max three at Marloes Mere on 5th Aug and three near Camrose on 8th Aug; CEREDIGION: 5 at Ynys-hir in July and 6 in August; BRECON: Max 2 at Usk Reservoir dam on 11th Sept; CAERNARFON: Max 3 on Bardsey on 14th Aug; ANGLESEY: 4 on Malltraeth Marsh on 27th Aug; DENBIGH: Max 3 at RSPB Conwy on 29th July.

SPOTTED REDSHANK *Tringa erythropus*

PIBYDD COESGOCH MANNOG

(B) An uncommon but regular passage migrant to coastal counties chiefly in autumn.

Small numbers over-winter; rare inland. Wales – Amber listed.

Numbers of this species seem to be in decline in many Welsh counties. Monthly max. at the main sites (holding counts of 6 at least once) were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
GWENT												
NWR Goldcliff	2	1	1	1					2	6	3	3
CARMARTHEN												
Penclacwydd	3	3	1	4	1	-	-	2	4	6	5	5
FLINT												
Connah's Quay NR			1-4				2			13	17	

Other winter records were: CEREDIGION: Ynys-hir's regular wintering bird was seen on 3rd Jan to 2nd April and again from 7th Nov to the end of the year; CARMARTHEN: Singles at Kidwelly Quay on 11th Jan and 29th Nov; MEIRIONNYDD: One on the Porthmadog Cob Pools on 26th Nov and probably the same bird on the Dwyryd Estuary between Penrhyndeudraeth and Minffordd beach on 3rd Dec was the first county record (s) since Oct 2009; CAERNARFON: One at Aber Ogwen from 4th Jan to 22nd Feb and one at Y Foryd on 18th Feb and 1st March. In the second winter period, there was again one at Aber Ogwen on 30th Nov and 5th Dec and one at Morfa Madryn on 7th Dec; ANGLESEY: One off Foel/Sea Zoo on 28th Feb, then one on the Afon Cefni at Malltraeth on 17th and 23rd Nov and 4th Dec.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
GWENT	2	1	1	1					2	6	3	3
E. GLAMORGAN				1				1				
CARMARTHEN	4	3	2	4	1	-	-	2	4	6	6	5
PEMBROKE												
CEREDIGION	1	1	1	1					1		1	1
BRECON								2				
MEIRIONNYDD											1	1
CAERNARFON	1	2	1								1	2
ANGLESEY		1	1	2			1	1			1	1

Elsewhere: DENBIGH: All records were from RSPB Conwy. The first autumn record was a single on 8th Sept and there were counts of 1-2 until the last record of a single on 26th Oct.

GREENSHANK *Tringa nebularia*

PIBYDD COESWERDD

(C) Locally common in coastal areas on passage, chiefly in autumn. Small numbers overwinter on Anglesey, Caernarfon, Glamorgan and Pembroke. It is uncommon inland.

WeBS counts indicate little long-term change in Wales, though there has been some decline in numbers in recent years. The monthly max. at the main sites (holding counts of 15+ at least once or 8+ in winter) are tabulated below:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
CARMARTHEN												
Pendclawydd	12	6	13	10	4	1	42	49	76	70	22	11
Gwendraeth	12	13	12	-	-	-	18	20	17	-	12	-
PEMBROKE												
Cleddau Est.	14	10	15						30	38	32	14
CAERNARFON												
Foryd	9	8	6				5	8	12	13	8	10
Traeth Lafan	5	6	7	2				13	26	12	12	9

Other winter records were: GWENT: In the first winter period up to three birds were at Goldcliff Lagoons with 6 there on 1st March. In the second winter period max 7 at Goldcliff in Nov and max 5 here in Dec; CARMARTHEN: Records from Pembrey Harbour were of 2 from 4th Jan to 13th Feb and one on 25th Nov; PEMBROKE: 6 at Sprinkle Pill on 1st Nov; CEREDIGION: 1 - 2 in the first winter period, mainly at Glandwr, Cors Fochno, though occasionally at Ynys-hir and Ynyslas. 7 at Ynys-hir on 11th Nov and 3 at Ynyslas on 28th - 29th Dec; MEIRIONNYDD: 5 at the Glaslyn/Dwryd estuary in Jan with one in Feb. In Dec, 6 at the Glaslyn/Dwryd estuary and two at Llyn Tegid; CAERNARFON: Singles around Porthmadog harbour and Borth-y-gest in Jan and Dec; ANGLESEY: 3 at Beddmanarch on 2nd Jan, singles at Cemlyn on 13th and 27th Jan and 14th Feb, one on Afon Cefni on 10th Feb and 2 at Valley on 22nd Feb. In the second winter period, one at Cemlyn on 9th Nov, two here on 18th Nov and 4th Dec. 5 were at Llyn Dinam on 27th Nov, 3 were at Red Wharf Bay on 15th Nov and 15th Dec and 3 on the Alaw Estuary on 29th Dec. One on Traeth Dulas on 1st Dec and 2 on Afon Cefni on 30th Dec; DENBIGH: One at RSPB Conwy on 24th Dec.

Inland records were: CEREDIGION: One at Cors Caron on 11th and 17th Sept; BRECON: One at Llangasty on 27th April. On autumn passage, 2 adults at Talybont Reservoir on 3rd July, and one at Sheephouse on the Wye on 5th Sept; MONTGOMERY: A single bird dropped in at Llyn Coed y Dinas on 1st Sept.

Approximate monthly totals where available were:

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
GWENT	3	3	6	3	4	2	7	10	14	12	7	5
E. GLAMORGAN				1			2	13	10			
CARMARTHEN	26	21	26	10	4	1	60	69	93	70	35	11
CEREDIGION		2		2	1	1	2	5+	11+	10+	7	3
MONTGOMERY					3		4	5	8			
BRECON				1			2		1			
MEIRIONNYDD	5	1	1	2			1		1	2	1	8
CAERNARFON	15	14	13	2	1	1	12	23	39	26	20	20
ANGLESEY	5	3	1	1	1	3	21	16	15	8	10	11
DENBIGH				1	2		2	6	11			1

FLINT: Most records were from Connah's Quay NR. In Jan to April most counts were 1-4 with 5 there on 8th March. During June and July, max 8 here on 28th July. From Aug to Dec,

small numbers at sites other than Connah's Quay NR but all the highest counts there: 13 on 25th Aug and several dates in Oct, with 14 on 28th Oct.

LESSER YELLOWLEGS *Tringa flavipes*

MELYN GOES BACH

(A) Vagrant, on BBRC list.

A juvenile was on Skomer PEMBROKE on 11th - 12th Sept and then a juvenile was at Marloes Mere on 15th Sept, probably the same individual.

WOOD SANDPIPER *Tringa glareola*

PIBYDD Y GRAEAN

(B) A scarce passage migrant recorded in every county, principally in the autumn but with a scattering of spring records.

This has never been a very common species in Wales, and no real trend can be made out. GWENT: All records from NWR Goldcliff Lagoons in the autumn, where there were singles on 11th - 12th July, 28th Aug and 6th - 11th Sept; CARMARTHEN: There were 2 records of single birds at Pentre-Davis on 5th May and Kidwelly Quay on 8th Aug; PEMBROKE: Only four records this year, singles at Marloes Mere 14th and 24th May and on Skokholm on 22nd May and then on return passage on Skomer on 25th July; CEREDIGION: One at Glandwr on 5th May. On return passage, one at Ynys-hir from 24th July to 5th Aug, one at Ty Gwyn pool on 30th July and one at Cors Caron on 14th - 21st Sept; BRECON: One flushed at close range from the banks of the River Usk at Scethrog on 22nd June; ANGLESEY: One at Malltraeth Marsh RSPB on 4th - 27th Aug.

2013: MEIRIONNYDD: One near Dyfi Junction, Dyfi Estuary on 18th July.

REDSHANK *Tringa totanus*

PIBYDD COESGOCH

(C) A scarce and declining breeding species, confined chiefly to salt-marshes but with a few pairs inland. Much larger numbers winter. Wales – Amber listed.

The number of birds breeding in Wales has been in steady decline for many years, and it seems that most breeding pairs are now on coastal reserves where the habitat can be managed to help them. Records of breeding or possible breeding were: GWENT: An adult and a juv at Llandegfedd res on 7th July and a pair with 3 chicks at NWR on 9th May with at least 2 broods (of four and one juvs) there on 15th May. NWR surveys identified 33 breeding territories but there was no record of overall productivity; CEREDIGION: Four pairs bred at Glandwr, two pairs bred on the salt marsh between the Clettwr and the Leri on the Dyfi, a pair were present at Cors Caron and 40 pairs bred at Ynys-hir; MONTGOMERY: Recorded breeding on the Dyfi Estuary; MEIRIONNYDD: 2 fledged young at Llyn Trawsfynydd on 10th July. Birds showing agitated behaviour around the Arthro estuary. Possibly two breeding pairs on the Mawddach, with young heard calling here on 26th July; CAERNARFON: Now very rare in the county as a breeding bird, with no reports

suggesting breeding this year; FLINT: Eleven pairs known to breed on RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands during April to June.

In contrast to the breeding population, WeBS counts indicate little change in the number wintering in Wales between 1984-5 and 2009-10. The monthly max. at the main sites (holding counts of 300 at least once) were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
E. GLAMORGAN												
Rhymney Est	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	300	-	1000	1500	1200
CARMARTHEN												
Penclacwydd	126	61	130	28	-	8	168	195	268	260	300	45
Gwendraeth	200	150	-	-	-	-	380	300	324	-	110	40
PEMBROKE												
Cleddau Est.	498	381	239						143	561	708	730
CAERNARFON												
Traeth Lafan	694	1564	536	130		4	47	450	478	485	1036	1389
DENBIGH												
RSPB Conwy	500+	153	295	103		7	71	517	613	625	520	692
FLINT												
Point of Ayr	200	46	250	2		6	150	50	350	700	700	
Mostyn Dock	92		670	260			550	500	1400	1060	575	
Oakenholt Marsh	120	220	200	4	4		2	200	1600	2835	600	
Connah's Quay NR	29	28	83			2	1230	1800	800	93	100	

Other large counts were: CARMARTHEN: 360 at North Dock on 30th Aug; FLINT: 450 near Talacre on 19th Jan.

Inland records were: GWENT: At Llandegfedd res, an adult and a juv on 7th July, one on 2nd Aug and two on 6th Sept; CARMARTHEN: 2 at Pentre-Davis on 13th March; BRECON: 26 reports, all from Llangorse Lake, in both spring and autumn passage periods. This was a significant increase, although some related to multiple reports of the same individuals. Birds were reported from 27th March to 26th Nov, max 3 at Llangasty on 29th June; MONTGOMERY: A passage bird was seen at Lake Vyrnwy on 14th March with autumn records there of 3 on 23rd Aug and one on 25th Aug. Llyn Coed y Dinas held a single bird on 19th – 20th Dec; MEIRIONNYDD: One on Llyn Tegid on 15th Aug with 2 on the 17th, birds not often seen here.

JACK SNIPE *Lymnocyptes minimus*

GIACH FACH

(B) A fairly common passage migrant and winter visitor. Wales – Amber listed.

This is a difficult species to monitor, and at many sites birds are only seen when flushed. However, there have been comments from several counties that numbers seem to be declining. Birds were recorded until 22nd April and from 12th Sept.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr		Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
GWENT		2						6	1
E. GLAMORGAN	10	1	3	1		1	2	6	11
CARMARTHEN									
PEMBROKE	3	4	2			1	4	4	5
CEREDIGION	1	2	2			1	2	1	1
BRECON	1	2				2	2	3	
MONTGOMERY	8						4		
MEIRIONNYDD	2		1					2	
CAERNARFON	1	1	1	1			3	1	1
ANGLESEY	7	1	2	1			2		2
DENBIGH	1						2		1
FLINT	1	1							

RADNOR: Recorded from 15 sites. Continued increase and earlier autumn arrival. First were 4 in the Elan Valley on 29th Sept and 4 at Rhosgoch on 30th Sept.

The highest counts were 9+ at Rhosgoch RADNOR in mid-October, 8 at Llanishen Res E. GLAMORGAN on 19th Jan and 8 at Llyn Hir MONTGOMERY on 26th Jan. However, larger numbers of birds were caught by ringers and reported to the BTO, with a total of 75 ringed in Wales in 2014. This compares with a total of 146 Common Snipe ringed in the same period, suggesting that the ratio of Jack to Common Snipe may be higher than most observers would expect. Of the total of 75 ringed, 53 were in RADNOR, 12 in CEREDIGION and 6 in MONTGOMERY.

WOODCOCK *Scolopax rusticola*

CYFFYLOG

(C) A regular breeder in small numbers in all counties except Pembroke & Anglesey. It is widespread and common / abundant in winter. Wales – Amber listed.

The BTO Atlas suggests a decline in breeding Woodcock throughout Wales between 1988-91 and 2008-11. All records of roding or possibly breeding birds are given and all would be welcome, as the breeding status of this species in Wales remains poorly understood: GWENT: Two records of roding birds, three in the air together at Cleddon Bog on 1st June and two at Five Paths, Wentwood, on 5th June; RADNOR: Roding birds found at five sites. One seen taken by a Goshawk; MEIRIONNYDD: A bird roding at Hafod Uchel on 12th May; CAERNARFON: No records in the breeding season this year; DENBIGH: There was one record of breeding activity: a single roding near Esclusham Mountain on 30th March; FLINT: One was heard calling at Rhydymwyn in July so may have been breeding nearby.

Wintering numbers are much higher, but the species is under-recorded as most birds are in habitats seldom visited by birdwatchers in winter. The number caught by ringers specifically targeting this species is a more accurate indicator. Maximum passage and wintering counts were: GWENT: 8 were flushed by dogs at Ysgyryd Fach on 8th Jan, when

woods were driven. At The Hendre, 20 were flushed, using dogs, on 20th Jan. Feb began with a further dog-flushed count of 30, on the Llanarth Estate, on 1st; E. GLAMORGAN: No records of more than two birds; PEMBROKE: 8 near Boncath on 2nd Jan; CEREDIGION: 32 at Castle Hill, Llanilar on 2nd Jan and 59 there on 4th Jan, with 18 at Tynant, Llanilar on the same date; BRECON: Max 4 flushed during a Pheasant shoot at Pytindu Wood, Llanddew on 20th Dec; MONTGOMERY: 10+ at Llyn Hir on 26th Jan, and in the second winter period 4 here on 29th Nov; MEIRIONNYDD: 6 at Cwm Sian Llwyd, Berwyn on 13th March; CAERNARFON: 4 on Bardsey on 5th and 7th Nov, 4 at Hafod Lane, Bangor on 18th Nov and 4 at Lôn Las, Rhiw, on 29th Dec; ANGLESEY: On 11th Jan, 20 were flushed during a shoot on the Bodorgan Estate with none hit. In the second winter period 67 were ringed near Newborough during Dec; DENBIGH: 9 at RSPB Conwy on 25th Nov; FLINT: No records of more than two birds.

A total of 708 birds were ringed in Wales during 2014 (BTO online ringing report). These included 257 in CEREDIGION, 127 in PEMBROKE, 84 in RADNOR, 72 in MONTGOMERY, 63 on ANGLESEY (but see above), 50 in CARMARTHEN, 22 in BRECON and 21 in MEIRIONNYDD. The Pembrokeshire Ringing group run a winter Woodcock ringing project, the results of which and subsequent analysis can be found on their web-page. Interestingly they ringed a partially albino bird on 12th Nov. In CEREDIGION, out of 85 adults caught at a site near Aberystwyth in the winter of 2012/13, 47% were birds ringed there in previous winters.

SNIBE *Gallinago gallinago*

GIACH GYFFREDIN

(C) A widespread breeding bird, nesting in all counties but in small and declining numbers. Substantial numbers in winter. Wales – Amber listed.

Breeding Snipe are under-recorded and the true position in Wales is uncertain, though the BTO Atlas suggests a decline in western counties between 1988-91 and 2008-11. Records of breeding or possible breeding were: GWENT: The only hint of possible breeding was when a single bird was watched displaying over Waun Afon bog on 3rd May; CARMARTHEN: Single individuals were seen displaying over damp fields at Cyngordy in mid-March and at Rhandirmwyn on 13th April, the first breeding season activity in this area for 30 years. Twelve birds were seen in suitable breeding habitat near Cwrt-y-cadno on 12th April; CEREDIGION: Breeding records came from Cors Caron, Cors Ian NR, Llyn Dwfn, Nant y Moch, Cors Fochno and Ynys-hir; BRECON: Breeding season reports included several straddling county boundaries; close to Gwent, 3 displaying birds at Ffos y wern above Trefil on 7th May, 3 at Gorslwyn just over the Glamorgan border on 28th, and 3 both sides of the Usk headwaters south of Pont ar Wysg adjoining Carmarthenshire the following day. Breeding also occurred at Cefngwaunhynog (Colbren) with 4 drummers/chippers on 19th April, a pair at Roman Road in late-May, and ‘chippers’ at Drum Nantygors, Pwll Du (SN8634 Epynt) and Gamrhiw during May - July. In May/June, up to 6 displayed over Traeth Mawr; RADNOR: Still widespread as a breeding bird in suitable habitat with no recent signs of decline in the best ungrazed and undisturbed sites; MONTGOMERY: Breeding was recorded on the Upper Dyfi Estuary and two locations also

recorded summer birds - Dolydd Hafren and Lake Vyrnwy, where at least one drumming male was heard; MEIRIONNYDD: 2 pairs probably bred near Y Garn, one calling at Rhagatt, Berwyn on 16th April was probably on territory, one chipping and one drumming at Hafod Uchel, Berwyn on 23rd April and one at Yr Ysgwrn, Trawsfynydd on 5th July; CAERNARFON: One flushed in potential breeding habitat at Ty'n-y-mynydd, Waunfawr, on 13th April, 2 separate birds several hundred metres apart giving 'chipper' calls on the W side of Gwaun Gynfi on 22nd April and on 20th May one drumming around Ffos Rhufeiniad on Moel Faban, with the same or a 2nd bird 'chipping'; chipping calls also heard here on 15th July; DENBIGH: A single drumming near Gwynfryn on 25th April.

Monthly max. at sites with significant winter counts of 40 or more are tabulated as available:

		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
GWENT	Newport Wetlands	70	35	20		19	20	92	33	7
E. GLAMORGAN	Llanishen Res	150	197	147	-	-	-	79	227	127
CARMARTHEN	Gwendraeth	57	-	-	-	-	-	-	20	-
	Taf	40	40	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
PEMBROKE	Cleddau Est	72	14	1				7	12	18
BRECON	Mynydd Illtud	37	26	32	1	nc	7	38	87	44
MEIRIONNYDD	Broadwater	41	4	21	0	-	0	12	0	-

Other large counts (40+) were: PEMBROKE: 60 at Newgale on 14th Jan, increasing to 150 there on 19th Jan and 50 at Newgale marsh on 24th Feb; CEREDIGION: 60+ at Ynyslas on 3rd Dec and 100+ on Cors Fochno on 31st Dec; BRECON: At Y Gors up to 44 left the marsh to feed by night on local farmland during Nov-Dec; RADNOR: 60+ Rhosgoch in Oct and Nov; MONTGOMERY: 40 at Llyn Hir on 15th Oct; DENBIGH: The largest counts were all from RSPB Conwy: 50 on 14th Jan, 50+ on 16th and 19th Jan, 52 on 1st Jan and 73 on 20th Jan.

GREAT SNIPE *Gallinago media*

GIACH FAWR

(A) *Rare vagrant, on BBRC list.*

A juvenile was trapped and ringed at Llanbadarn Fynydd RADNOR on 9th Oct. This is the 9th record for Wales, and only the second since 1950.

COLLARED PRATINCOLE *Glareola pratincola*

CWTIADWENNOL DORCHOG

(A) *A rare visitor, on BBRC list.*

One was at Skokholm PEMBROKE on 1st May. This is the first record for Pembroke and only the third record for Wales.

POMARINE SKUA *Stercorarius pomarinus*

SGIWEN FRECH

(B) A fairly common and increasing passage migrant to coastal areas, particularly in autumn.

CARMARTHEN: Two off Cefn Sidan on 30th April; PEMBROKE: A 1st winter bird at Strumble Head on 8th Jan. In autumn, 53 passed there on nine dates between 24th Aug and 19th Dec, max 36 on 21st Oct. These included 15 pale phase and three dark phase adults and 35 juveniles. Away from Strumble, Ramsey had a day record of seven on 21st Oct, two on 12th Dec and singles on 19th Oct, 7th Nov and 27th Dec, the last being the latest ever record for the island. A single pale phase bird was found exhausted on the beach at Amroth and taken into care on 15th Nov; CEREDIGION: Two were reported off Mwnt in spring. One was off New Quay on 25th Sept, one was off Aberystwyth on 21st October and one was off Mwnt on 22nd Oct; CAERNARFON: Two adults off Criccieth on 7th and 10th May and one adult off Bardsey on 27th May. In autumn, Bardsey recorded a total of 13 birds between 13th Sept and 22nd Oct, max six on 21st Oct. The only mainland record was a 1st calendar year bird off Criccieth on 19th Oct; ANGLESEY: At the Range, two on 11th May. At Point Lynas, one on 21st Oct and singles passed on 21st and 22nd Oct.

Earliest and latest dates by county were:

	Earliest	Site	Latest	Site
CARMARTHEN	30 th April	Cefn Sidan		
PEMBROKE	8 th Jan	Strumble Head	27 th Dec	Ramsey Island
CEREDIGION			22 nd Oct	Mwnt
CAERNARFON	7 th May	Criccieth	22 nd Oct	Bardsey
ANGLESEY	11 th May	The Range	22 nd Oct	Point Lynas

2013: GWENT: One past Goldcliff Point on 10th May; E. GLAMORGAN: One off Porthcawl on 10th May was possibly same as above; MEIRIONNYDD: One past Tywyn on 13th Oct.

ARCTIC SKUA *Stercorarius parasiticus*

SGIWEN Y GOGLEDD

(B) Passage bird off coastal counties; scarce in spring, more numerous in autumn. Wales – Amber listed.

GWENT: All records off Goldcliff Point: 4 on 7th May, 3 on 10th May and one the next day; E. GLAMORGAN: All spring reports were in May: singles off Porthcawl on 6th, off Cardiff Heliport, Porthcawl and Lavernock Point on 7th, off Porthcawl on 10th, two here on 11th and one off Lavernock the same day. Singles were off Sker Point on 26th Sept and off Irongate Point, Porthcawl, on 9th Oct. An un-quantified report from Kenfig river mouth on 3rd Nov; CARMARTHEN: In spring, single birds at Ginst Point on 22nd March, Cefn Sidan on 17th April and Pembrey Harbour on 30th, with two at Cefn Sidan on 30th April. In autumn, one was at Cefn Sidan on 28th Aug; PEMBROKE: At Strumble Head, one on 11th May. In the autumn, 201 birds passed there on 31 dates between 11th Aug and 3rd Nov; max 50 on 21st Oct. These included: 69 pale phase, 111 dark phase and 21 juveniles. Away from Strumble, Ramsey had a day record of 30 birds on 21st Oct and single birds on

23rd Aug and 25th Oct. At Skomer, a spring record on 5th May, then nine birds on 19th Oct, equalling the day record count from 3rd Sept 1992. Skokholm had singles on 9th and 15th Sept and on 5th and 22nd Oct, the last equalling the latest date for the island; CEREDIGION: One off Ynyslas on 17th April was the only spring record. Three off New Quay on 21st Oct, one off Mwnt and two off Ynyslas on 22nd Oct were the only autumn records; CAERNARFON: Bardsey recorded singles on 4th April and on 10th, 11th, 14th and 29th May. The only mainland spring records were singles off Criccieth on 5th and 7th May with two there on 10th May, and off Rhos Point, six on 23rd May and two the next day. In autumn, singles off Mynydd Mawr on 16th Aug, Little Orme on 17th Aug, Traeth Crugan on 12th Oct, and two off Criccieth on 19th Oct. Bardsey recorded a total of 47 birds between 26th Aug and 26th Oct, max 7 on 21st Oct; ANGLESEY: At Cemlyn, one off the Trwyn on 26th April; one off the Range on 11th May. At Cemlyn one harassing terns on 15th July; one off Cemlyn on 4th Oct and two passed there on 21st Oct. Two were off Carmel on 31st Aug, 7 were off Point Lynas on 21st Oct, 6 there on 21st Oct, two on 22nd Oct and three on 17th Nov.

Earliest and latest dates by county were:

	Earliest	Site	Latest	Site
GWENT	7 th May	Goldcliff Point		
E. GLAMORGAN	6 th May	Porthcawl	3 rd Nov	Kenfig river mouth
CARMARTHEN	22 nd March	Ginst Point	28 th Aug	Cefn Sidan
PEMBROKE	5 th May	Skomer	3 rd Nov	Strumble Head
CEREDIGION	17 th April	Ynyslas	22 nd Oct	Mwnt and Ynyslas
CAERNARFON	4 th April	Bardsey	26 th Oct	Bardsey
ANGLESEY	26 th April	Cemlyn	17 th Nov	Point Lynas

2013: E. GLAMORGAN: One was off Porthcawl on 10th May.

LONG-TAILED SKUA *Stercorarius longicaudus*

SGIWEN LOSTFAIN

(A) An uncommon visitor recorded chiefly along the western seaboard during westerly gales, spring records are very infrequent. Wales – Amber listed.

PEMBROKE: At Strumble Head the highest day count of the year was seven on 21st Oct. All other records were of singles: on 11th, 17th, 18th and 31st Aug, 4th and 22nd Oct, and 11th Dec, the latest date recorded in the county for this species, surpassing the previous record by 8 days (one at Strumble Head on 3rd Dec 1999). The birds seen on 11th and 18th Aug were adults with all others being recorded as juveniles. Single juveniles were seen off Skokholm and Skomer on 21st Oct, the 2nd and 7th respective island records; CAERNARFON: A sub-adult off Criccieth on 7th May and an adult off Morfa Bychan on 9th May with possibly the same off Criccieth the next day. Bardsey recorded a flock of four on 21st Oct; ANGLESEY: An adult passed Point Lynas on 21st Oct and a juvenile passed there on 5th Nov.

GREAT SKUA *Catharacta skua*

SGIWEN FAWR

(B) Regularly recorded on autumn passage along the west coast where small numbers are also seen in winter and spring. Numbers vary annually, the highest counts dependent on the strength and frequency of onshore gales.

GWENT: Two off Goldcliff Point during strong SW winds on 9th Feb, two on 15th Feb with another there on 26th April and one on 10th May. In autumn, one off the end of Saltmarsh lane on the 26th Oct; E. GLAMORGAN: One was off Porthcawl on 19th Oct, and one was off Sully on 8th Nov; PEMBROKE: No late winter or spring records at Strumble Head this year. Autumn passage was recorded from 10th Aug to 19th Dec. During this period 203 birds passed on 34 days (max 100 on 21st Oct). Away from Strumble, a single bird was at Newgale from at least 19th to 22nd Feb, one was off St. David's Head on 22nd Feb, with two there on 22nd Oct. Ramsey had a day record of 28 birds on 21st Oct, then singles on 7th Nov, 11th and 27th Dec, the last being the latest ever recorded on Ramsey. On Skomer: singles on 24th April and 3rd and 6th May. A single on 19th Oct was the only autumn record for the island. On Skokholm, recorded on 13th and 15th April. In autumn, a single on 10th and two on 29th Aug; a single on 5th and two on 7th Sept, a single on 4th and two on 19th Oct; CEREDIGION: One was off Aberystwyth following strong winds on 16th Jan, one was off Aberystwyth on 8th Feb and one was off Tanybwch on 3rd March. In autumn, one was off Ynyslas on 21st Sept, two were off New Quay on 21st Oct and two were off Mwnt on 22nd Oct; CAERNARFON: There are now fewer records of this species than formerly, with only one spring record, a single off Bardsey on 12th May. In autumn, there were three mainland records: singles off Rhos Point on 18th Aug and 12th Oct, and off Criccieth on 19th Oct. Bardsey recorded a total of 26 birds between 27th Aug and 21st Nov, max 12 on 21st Oct. There was one winter record off the island, a single on 19th Dec; ANGLESEY: Singles on 11th and 16th May at the Range. Two were off Cemlyn on 4th Oct with four past here on 21st and 22nd Oct. Singles passed Point Lynas on 13th and 21st Oct, four there on 22nd Oct and singles on 5th Nov and 17th Nov. One was at North Stack on 22nd Oct.

Earliest and latest dates by county were:

	Earliest	Site	Latest	Site
GWENT	9 th Feb	Goldcliff Point	26 th Oct	Saltmarsh Lane
E. GLAMORGAN			8 th Nov	Sully
PEMBROKE	19 th Feb	Newgale	27 th Dec	Ramsey
CEREDIGION	16 th Jan	Aberystwyth	22 nd Oct	Mwnt
CAERNARFON	12 th May	Bardsey	19 th Dec	Bardsey
ANGLESEY	11 th May	The Range	17 th Nov	Point Lynas

2013: E. GLAMORGAN: Three were off Lavernock Point on 11th May.

PUFFIN *Fratercula arctica*

PAL

(C) A breeding bird of offshore islands and a few western headlands. Formerly bred in large numbers. Wales – Red listed.

The number of Puffins breeding in Wales seems to have remained fairly stable since the mid-1980s, though accurate counts are not available for all sites (JNCC). The count unit is

the apparently occupied burrow (AOB) or apparently occupied site (AOS). Breeding records were: PEMBROKE: Two individuals on St. Margaret's Island, three AOS on Stackpole Head, 18,237 individuals on Skomer, 5,070 individuals on Skokholm, with a breeding success of 0.50 chicks per AOB (based on observations of 76 AOB) and 32 individuals at Bishops & Clerks; CAERNARFON: A visit to Ynys Gwylan Fawr on 26th June produced a count of 871 AOB. Landing on Ynys Gwylan Bach was not possible, but birds were seen carrying food to the island. Even without Ynys Gwylan Bach, the total of 871 AOB is the highest since 2001. There were 253 birds on the west side of Ynys Gwylan Fawr on 29th June, at least half recently fledged young. On Bardsey, the colony continues to expand, though an accurate count of burrows was not possible. The highest count of birds here was 139 on 23rd June, and the colony was estimated at around 55 AOB; ANGLESEY: 263 AOB at the Skerries. One bird was at South Stack on 31st March and 6 on 28th June. Counts of 5 and 4 individuals on land were recorded on Puffin Island from sea-based counts.

Other counts (of live birds) included: CAERNARFON: Two off Black Rock Sands on 5th March. The largest count off the mainland was 40 off Aberdaron on 16th May. Elsewhere, there were a number of records of 1-2 birds, and 3 off the Great and Little Ormes on 7th June; ANGLESEY: Singles at Porth Tre Castell on 2nd Jan and passing Cemlyn on 17th May. Small numbers, probably individuals from breeding colonies nearby, passed the headland there during sea-watches, including 10 flying west on 17th July.

Monthly max counts off Bardsey, CAERNARFON:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Bardsey	0	1	7	2	25	141	113	4	2	1	0	0

Numbers of Puffin corpses reported from beaches checked for wrecked seabirds, following the severe winter storms:

	17 th Feb	22 nd Feb	23 rd Feb	25 th Feb	27 th Feb	28 th Feb	1 st March
E. GLAMORGAN							
Gileston			1				
Sker					3		
CARMARTHEN							
Cefn Sidan		2					1
Telpyn to Marros			1				
PEMBROKE							
Freshwater East	2						
Bullslaughter Bay		1					
Freshwater West					10		
Marloes		2					
Newgale			4			4	
Pwllchrochan to Pen Caer					1		
ANGLESEY							
Porth Dafarch				1			

BLACK GUILLEMOT *Cephus grylle*

GWYLOG DDU

(B) A scarce breeding resident in Anglesey and rarely elsewhere in north Wales. Occurs sparingly off the coasts of Wales outside the breeding season. Wales – Amber listed.

The number of birds breeding in Wales is probably increasing slowly, though accurate counts of breeding pairs are very difficult for this species. Breeding records were: PEMBROKE: Present at Fishguard Harbour and presumed to have bred there; ANGLESEY: Two visits were made inside the port at Holyhead and it was thought that the birds all failed this year due to high stormy tides in early summer. No active nests were found. Four individuals on land were counted on Puffin Island from sea-based counts.

Other records were: PEMBROKE: Up to three birds in Fishguard Harbour on 26th Jan, then from 18th March - 12th Aug, presumed to have bred. Elsewhere a single at Giltar Point, Penally, on 15th March; CEREDIGION: An adult in summer plumage off New Quay on 16th June; CAERNARFON: Regular records of small numbers in and around Bangor harbour and pier, including 5 on 23rd and 27th Feb and 4 on 1st March, with still two off Bangor Pier on 18th May. Single birds, presumably the same, were recorded off Penrhyn Park and Aber Ogwen and one off Llanfairfechan promenade on 17th March. Singles were seen off the Great Orme on 25th April, off the Little Orme on 27th May, off Felinheli on 27th May and passing Rhos Point on 5th June, but there was no suggestion of breeding. A single adult was seen off Bardsey on several dates from 28th April, with two there on 21st May. Singles were recorded off Bardsey on 24th July and 3rd Sept. Later in the year, 12 passed Morfa Aber on 8th Nov; ANGLESEY: In the first winter period, three were off Moelfre on 13th Jan, 8 between Beaumaris and Ynys Seiriol on 24th Jan, 8 at Holyhead in the main harbour and 4 off the Fish Quay on 31st Jan, with max 14 in Holyhead Old Harbour on 14th March. Five were off Moelfre on 15th Feb, two in Beddmanarch Bay that day and one there on 3rd March. One was off Benllech on 18th Feb with two there on 20th March. One was off Traeth Llugwy on 3rd March and two off Beaumaris on 16th March. Later records included one off Penmon Point on 7th April, two on the Menai Straits off Craig-y-Don on 24th May, 9 between Beaumaris and Ynys Seiriol on 28th May, two off Fedw Fawr on 6th June, one off Penrhos CP on 9th June, four off Point Lynas on 26th July, singles off Porth Penmon on 4th Aug and off Traeth Llugwy on 1st Dec. At Cemlyn, up to two birds were seen sporadically in the bay through the season, particularly in June and July., max 3 on 5th July; DENBIGH: The only record was a single at Towyn on 1st March.

RAZORBILL *Alca torda*

LLURS

(C) A breeding resident on the cliffs and islands of north-west and south-west Wales. Some disperse south to the Portuguese coasts in winter with a proportion entering the Mediterranean; part of the population remains in Welsh waters.

There has been an upward trend in the number of Razorbills breeding in the Welsh colonies since 1986, though productivity has declined in recent years (JNCC). The count unit for breeding birds is adults on land (AOL). Breeding records were: PEMBROKE: The overall total number of birds counted in the breeding season, based on counts at several breeding colonies, was slightly down compared with 2013. Counts of AOL in the breeding

season included: 58 on Caldey Island (cf 47 in 2013), 205 on St. Margaret's Island (cf 246 in 2013), 1,142 on the Castlemartin Peninsula (cf 1,511 in 2013), 6,541 on Skomer (cf 6,663 in 2013), with a breeding success of between 0.22 and 0.34 chicks per apparently occupied site (based on observations at four study sites) and 2,052 on Skokholm (cf 2,294 in 2013) with a breeding success of 0.35 and 0.44 chicks per apparently occupied site (based on observations at two study sites). Breeding occurred on Ramsey but no counts were made. 66 at Needle Rock, Dinas Island; CEREDIGION: Several small breeding colonies between New Quay Head and Cardigan Island but no breeding surveys were carried out in 2014; CAERNARFON: 813 AOL counted from the sea at Carreg y Llam, Llŷn. Additional sea-based counts of AOL included: 78 on St Tudwal's Island East, 43 on St Tudwal's Island West, 75 at Trwyn Cilan, 2,208 on Bardsey (an increase of 498 on last year). 51 on Ynys Gwylan Fawr, and 10 seen from the sea on Ynys Gwylan Bach, though landing was not possible. The species is in decline on the Gwylans, as is the Guillemot. Breeding was recorded at Trwyn Penrhyn, Aberdaron. 125 AOL on the Great Orme and 44 on the Little Orme; ANGLESEY: 769 AOL at South Stack (-36% from 1,200 in 2013). 788 individuals were counted on Puffin Island from sea-based counts. Four individuals were recorded at the Skerries.

Other counts (of live birds) included: E. GLAMORGAN: Singles off Cardiff Heliport on 6th Feb and at Sker Point on 19th Feb. Singles off Porthcawl on 10th May, off Sker Point on 3rd Oct, and off Sker Point on 9th Dec; CARMARTHEN: The only live birds recorded were from Cefn Sidan in April: one on 17th and two 20th; CEREDIGION: Good numbers were present off Mwnt in Oct with an estimated 5,000 present on 22nd Oct; CAERNARFON: Most large counts were near breeding sites, including 200 around the Great Orme on 26th May. The largest count away from breeding sites was 43 off Black Rock Sands on 5th March. 14,637 birds passed Bardsey on 22nd Oct, the highest ever count for the island; ANGLESEY: At Cemlyn a small number were seen occasionally passing offshore during sea watches. Peak counts there were 800 on 21st Oct and 12,100 on 22nd Oct. Other records included singles in Silver Bay on 21st April and 12th Dec; DENBIGH: Recorded in Feb and March (mainly 1-2 birds) but three on 16th Feb at Pensarn. The only record late in the year was of two near Colwyn Bay on 21st Dec.

Monthly max counts off Bardsey, CAERNARFON:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Bardsey	16	3	54	449	405	1299	1136	25	456	14637	184	16

Numbers of Razorbill corpses reported from beaches checked for wrecked seabirds, following the severe winter storms:

	21 st Feb	22 nd Feb	23 rd Feb	25 th Feb	26 th Feb	27 th Feb	28 th Feb	1 st Mar	5 th Mar
E. GLAMORGAN									
Beached Bird Survey									15
CARMARTHEN									
Cefn Sidan		12						58	
Telpyn to Marros			29						
Ferryside			1						
PEMBROKE									
Freshwater East	2								
Bullslaughter Bay		8							
Freshwater West						42			
Marloes		16							
Broad Haven			2						
Nolton Haven			3						
Newgale		3	29				74		
In sea off St David's Head		10+							
Pwllchrochan to Pen Caer						11			
ANGLESEY									
Cymyran		23							
Porth Dafarch				15					
Treaddur Bay				15					
Holyhead GC					1				

LITTLE AUK *Alle alle*

CARFIL BACH

(A) Scarce winter visitor in irregular numbers offshore on the western seaboard. Most sightings in late autumn and early winter; often associated with westerly gales.

All records were: CARMARTHEN: One was found dead on Telpyn Beach to Marros Beach on 23rd Feb after the winter storms; PEMBROKE: One found in a garden and taken to a local vet who, once checked over, released it at Broad Haven - Little Haven on 14th Feb; CEREDIGION: One found dead at the strand line at Ynyslas on 25th Feb. One flying north close off-shore at Aberystwyth on 8th Feb and another there on 2nd March; CAERNARFON: One was off Rhos Point on 7th Dec and one passed Bardsey on 12th Dec; ANGLESEY: One flew south from North Stack on 12th Dec and one passed Point Lynas on 22nd Oct; DENBIGH: First recorded on 9th Nov at Pensarn and one was present until 21st Dec when it was last seen near Colwyn Bay.

GUILLEMOT *Uria aalge*

GWYLOG

(C) Resident breeding species in south-west and north-west counties, moving out to sea to moult after breeding. Wales – Amber listed.

The number of Guillemots breeding at the Welsh colonies has shown a steady increase since the early 1990s (JNCC). The count unit for breeding birds is adults on ledges or

adults on land (AOL). Breeding records were: PEMBROKE: The total number of birds counted in the breeding season, based on counts at several breeding colonies, was slightly up this year compared with 2013. Counts of AOL included: 35 on Caldey Island (cf 31 in 2013), 1,266 on St. Margaret's Island (cf 1,315 in 2013), 19,331 on the Castlemartin Peninsula (cf 18,603 in 2013), 23,493 on Skomer (12.6% increase on 2013, cf 20,862) with a breeding success of between 0.56 and 0.68 chicks per apparently occupied site (based on observations at four study sites) and 3,512 on Skokholm (cf 3,466 in 2013). Breeding occurred on Ramsey but no counts were made. 170 at Needle Rock, Dinas Island; CEREDIGION: A sizeable breeding colony at New Quay Head and several smaller ones between Cwmtdu and Cardigan Island but no breeding surveys were carried out in 2014; CAERNARFON: 6,213 AOL counted from the sea at Carreg y Llam, Llŷn, down from 9,770 in 2013. Additional sea-based counts of AOL included: 768 on St Tudwal's Island East, 624 on St Tudwal's Island West and 2,233 at Trwyn Cilan A total of 791 AOL was recorded on Bardsey, but no boat count was possible this year. As some colonies are only viewable from the sea, the estimated total for the island was 1,141 AOL, a small increase on 2013. Productivity from sample plots was estimated at 0.26 young per pair. Breeding was recorded at Braich Anelog, Aberdaron. 1,773 AOL recorded on the Great Orme and 1,314 at the Little Orme.; ANGLESEY: 4,773 pairs nested at South Stack (-14% from 5,563 in 2013). 3,295 AOL on Puffin Island from sea-based counts.

Other counts (of live birds) included: GWENT: Recorded during prolonged storms in Feb, with single birds passing Goldcliff Point on 9th and 15th and another found exhausted at Peterstone Gout on the 17th; E. GLAMORGAN: There was an un-quantified report from Kenfig river mouth on 9th Jan, one off Newton Point, Porthcawl, on 11th Jan, two at Sker on 7th Feb (exhausted), one at Kenfig Pool on 13th Feb. Two were off Porthcawl on 7th May and one was there on 9th May. Later in the year, one on Kenfig Pool on 2nd Nov, two off Sker Point on 14th Nov. A large count of 170 auks at Sker Point on 5th Dec, mostly unidentified, apart from apart from 10 or so seen at close range which were all Guillemots. One was off Kenfig river mouth on 9th Dec; CARMARTHEN: Records of live birds in April included: singles off Pembrey Harbour on 13th and at Kidwelly Quay on 15th, two off Cefn Sidan on 16th, three there on 17th, one on 28th and two on 30th; CAERNARFON: The largest counts were recorded near the breeding sites, including 2,500 counted from a boat off the Great Orme on 25th May, with several counts of 2-300 birds here; 200 at the Little Orme on 30th June and 100 at Penrhynside nearby on 22nd Jan. 35 were at Mynydd Mawr on 5th Dec. The largest count away from breeding sites was 35 at Aberdesach on 12th Oct; ANGLESEY: 150 were off Moelfre on 15th Feb. In Holyhead Harbour in Feb: nine on 8th, 11 on 9th, 13 on 26th and six on 7th March, all sheltering from the winter storms. 49 between Cemlyn and Carmel on 17th May and 30 there on 16th Nov. A small number passed Cemlyn far offshore during sea watches, max 153 past the Trwyn on 19th June; DENBIGH: Most records were early in the year, max five at Rhos-on-Sea on 28th Jan and at Pensarn on 9th Feb). The last of the early year records was a single at Pensarn on 14th March. Present at Rhos-on-Sea on 23rd Sept; remaining late in the year counts were of 1-2 birds; FLINT: Four records on 16th Feb of four singles at different locations.

Monthly max counts off Bardsey, CAERNARFON:

	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Bardsey	1850	600	62	50	480	708	384	3	19	14	2000	3000

Numbers of Guillemot corpses reported from beaches checked for wrecked seabirds, following the severe winter storms:

	18 th Feb	22 nd Feb	23 rd Feb	27 th Feb	28 th Feb	1 st March	5 th March
E. GLAMORGAN							
Kenfig Sands							21
CARMARTHEN							
Cefn Sidan	1	11				56	
Telpyn to Marros			10				
Ferryside			3				
PEMBROKE							
Bullslaughter Bay		12					
Freshwater West				29			
Marloes		4					
Broad Haven			6				
Nolton Haven			4				
Newgale			17		38		
Pwllchrochan-Pen Caer				3			
CEREDIGION Many found dead and dying along the coast in Feb							
ANGLESEY							
Cymyran		6					

LITTLE TERN *Sternula albifrons*

MORWENNOL FECHAN

(B) A summer resident which breeds only at one colony in Flint, otherwise a spring and autumn passage migrant to other coastal areas, rare inland. Wales – Red listed.

At the only Welsh breeding colony at Gronant, FLINT, about 136 pairs created 229 nests from which there was predation of eggs by at least one Fox and at least 77 young fledged. Some birds (an adult, 22 chicks and two fledglings were predated by a Kestrel and only a few chicks were ringed: 11 on 3rd July, one on 10th July and two on 15th July.

All other records were: E. GLAMORGAN: A juvenile at Kenfig Pool from 12th to 18th Aug; CARMARTHEN: Two spring records of single birds at Cefn Sidan on 16th April and 5th May; PEMBROKE: Two spring records of single birds: at the Teifi Estuary on 4th May and at Fishguard Harbour on 7th and 8th May. It was a good year for this species passing Strumble Head with a total of 21 birds logged. In August, singles on 11th, 25th and 30th, two on 27th, 6 on 29th and 7 on 28th. In Sept, singles on 17th and 30th and in Oct a single bird on the 9th; CEREDIGION: In spring: one at Teifi Estuary on 4th May and one at Ynyslas on 14th May. In autumn: two at Llansantffraed on 26th Aug; MEIRIONNYDD: Only one record, one at Aberdysynni on 21st April; CAERNARFON: Three passed the Little Orme on 17th

Aug; ANGLESEY: At Cemlyn, one on the Big Island on 8th June. A first winter was off Point Lynas on 9th Oct; DENBIGH: The only record was a single near Kinnel Bay on 27th July; FLINT: The first record was 12 near Gronant on 30th April and the last was four at Point of Ayr on 28th Aug. Most of the records came from the area of the breeding colony near Gronant where counts ranged from 5 to 310. At other sites counts were low (mainly one-four) though 10 were seen at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 11th May.

Earliest and latest dates by county were:

	Earliest	Site	Latest	Site
E. GLAMORGAN			18 th Aug	Kenfig Pool
CARMARTHEN	16 th April	Cefn Sidan		
PEMBROKE	4 th May	Teifi Estuary	9 th Oct	Strumble Head
CEREDIGION	4 th May	Teifi Estuary (same)	26 th Aug	Llansantffraed
CAERNARFON			17 th Aug	Little Orme
ANGLESEY	8 th June	Cemlyn	9 th Oct	Point Lynas
DENBIGH			27 th July	Kinnel Bay
FLINT	30 th April	Gronant	28 th Aug	Point of Ayr

BLACK TERN *Chlidonias niger*

CORSWENNOL DDU

(B) A fairly common passage migrant, chiefly to coastal counties in autumn but also seen on inland waters; spring records are usually fewer in number but there are influxes in some years. Wales – Amber listed.

All records were: GWENT: One at Llandegfedd Res on the typical date of 6th Sept; E. GLAMORGAN: One in Cardiff Bay on 2nd May; three at Lisvane Reservoir on 27th Aug; CARMARTHEN: One record of two juveniles at Machynys on 30th Aug; PEMBROKE: Only recorded at Strumble Head where 27 birds passed by - in August, a single on 27th, 16 on 28th, four on 29th and two each day on 30th and 31st. The only other record was of two birds passing by on 9th Oct; BRECON: Just two sightings, both from Llangorse Lake: one in summer plumage on 25th April and three on 28th Aug; MONTGOMERY: Two at Llyn Coed y Dinas on 27th - 28th May; CEREDIGION: A juvenile at Ynys-hir on 29th Aug and at Ynyslas later in the same day; CAERNARFON: A juvenile on Conwy Morfa on 31st July. Bardsey recorded single juveniles on 1st Aug and 30th Sept; ANGLESEY: No records this year.

Earliest and latest dates by county were:

	Earliest	Site	Latest	Site
E. GLAMORGAN	2 nd May	Cardiff Bay	27 th Aug	Lisvane Reservoir
PEMBROKE			9 th Oct	Strumble Head
BRECON	25 th April	Llangorse Lake	28 th Aug	Llangorse Lake
CEREDIGION			29 th Aug	Ynys-hir and Ynyslas
MONTGOMERY	27 th May	Llyn Coed y Dinas		
CAERNARFON			30 th Sept	Bardsey

WHITE-WINGED BLACK TERN *Chlidonias leucopterus* **CORSWENNOL ADEINWEN**

(A) *Rare visitor on passage from Eastern Europe. On WRP list.*

An adult at Cemlyn ANGLESEY over 16th - 18th June. It often hawked insects over Ty'n Llan pool or roosted on the bricks around the Big Island.

SANDWICH TERN *Sterna sandvicensis***MORWENNOL BIGDDU**

(C) *A summer visitor and passage migrant to coastal areas in spring and autumn, scarce inland; it is a regular breeder on Anglesey. Wales – Amber listed.*

At the only breeding colony in Wale, at Cemlyn, ANGLESEY, numbers have increased steadily over the last 20 years. This was another very successful year. The nest census found 2,567 pairs on both islands. An extra 50 pairs were counted after this date, giving a record total of 2,617 pairs. Good weather and little predation meant that an estimated 1,450 fledglings were produced from 2,617 nests observed, 0.55 chicks per nest.

Large counts elsewhere were: CARMARTHEN: In July, 61 at Pembrey Harbour on 27th with 70 there on 29th. Numbers at the Pembrey Harbour roost were lower than in recent years, max 70 on 1st Sept. Other records included 70 at both Burry Port on 14th Sept and at Cefn Sidan on 24th; PEMBROKE: At Strumble Head, a total of 550 birds logged on 30 dates between 25th July and 19th Dec, maximum 54 on 23rd Aug; CEREDIGION: The highest spring count was 30 at Ynyslas on 21st April. Peak autumn counts at Ynyslas/Borth: 140 on 30th July and 150 on 18th Aug; MEIRIONNYDD: 250 on rocks at Tonfanau on 19th Aug; CAERNARFON: 106 at Rhos Point in April and 205 there in May. Numbers at the post-breeding roosts on Traeth Lafan were generally lower this year compared to the exceptional totals in 2013. Maximum counts there included 240 in July and 400+ in Aug. 400 were at the Little Orme in Aug. The highest totals were at Rhos Point, with a max of 600 on 18th Aug. 72 at Afonwen on 7th Sept were mainly immature birds; ANGLESEY: At Point Lynas, 358 west in 4hrs on 26th July; DENBIGH: 350+ were roosting on mud to the south of the Foryd Bridge by Kinnel Bay on 27th July. The flock included juveniles. Thereafter, numbers were lower, mainly less than 100 with 150+ at Horton's Nose on 5th Aug; FLINT: 200 near Gronant on 13th July, and max 500 at Point of Ayr on 10th Aug and 595 near Gronant on 13th Aug.

Earliest and latest dates by county were:

	Earliest	Site	Latest	Site
GWENT	31 st March	Goldciff Point		
E. GLAMORGAN	8 th May	Porthcawl sea-front	9 th Oct	Irongate Point, Porthcawl
CARMARTHEN	16 th April	Cefn Sidan	19 th Oct	Penclacwydd
PEMBROKE	30 th March	The Gann	19 th Dec	Strumble Head
CEREDIGION	9 th March	Aberystwyth	22 nd Oct	Mwnt
MEIRIONNYDD	22 nd March	Aberdyfi	3 rd Oct	Llandanwg
CAERNARFON	31 st March	Abererch	8 th Oct	Bardsey
ANGLESEY	20 th Feb	Holyhead Bay	24 th Nov	Moelfre
DENBIGH	12 th April	Conwy RSPB	8 th Oct	Towyn
FLINT	5 th April	Talacre	10 th Oct	Prestatyn

The two off Strumble Head on 19th Dec are the latest ever recorded in PEMBROKE.

COMMON TERN *Sterna hirundo*

MORWENNOL *GYFFREDIN*

(C) A summer visitor, which breeds in Anglesey and Flint. It is a spring and autumn passage migrant to all coastal areas and is the commonest of the Sterna species inland. Wales – Red listed.

Breeding records were: ANGLESEY: 236 AON on the Skerries. At Cemlyn 100 pairs bred with an estimated 55 fledglings from 100 nests observed, a breeding success rate of 0.55 chicks per nest; FLINT: The colony at Shotton Steelworks was occupied again, but with fewer birds than before the crash in 2009 that is now thought to have occurred because of a crash in fish stocks within the Dee Estuary. There were 180 there on 7th June with birds carrying nest material. At RSPB Oakenholt Marsh 100 were seen on 11th June and thereafter generally 2-50 with small peaks of 60 at Shotton Steelworks on 28th June when occupied nests were seen. At the colony 60 were counted on 24th July and birds were seen carrying food for young. The colony was successful as nestlings were ringed in reasonable numbers: 172 on 6th July, 178 on 9th July, 92 on 20th July and 44 on 9th Aug. The total is just 43% of the 1,126 ringed there in 2006 but it is good that the birds have returned and of these 445 fledged. Fish stocks in the estuary appear to have recovered so, hopefully, this is a promise of a return to a regularly thriving colony. Additional counts at Shotton Steelworks reported to the JNCC Seabird Monitoring Programme included: an estimated 225 AON, with 448 young fledging from 215 nests, an average breeding success of 2.08 chicks per nest.

Large counts elsewhere were: GWENT: Max 14 at Llandegfedd Res on 25th Aug; CARMARTHEN: Max 11 at Pembrey Harbour on 15th Aug; PEMBROKE: Twelve at Strumble Head on 10th Oct; CEREDIGION: Spring maximum of 11 at Aberystwyth on 16th April; an autumn maximum of 36 on the Teifi Estuary on 27th Aug; CAERNARFON: 20 off the Great Orme on 9th June and 26 off Bardsey on 30th Sept. Inland county records were: BRECON: Minimum monthly totals at Llangorse Lake: one in April, 5 in May and 47 in August (24th - 28th). There was also one on Llyn Tegid MEIRIONNYDD on 15th May.

Earliest and latest dates by county were:

	Earliest	Site	Latest	Site
GWENT	19 th April	Peterstone Wentlooge	10 th Sept	Llandegfedd Res
E. GLAMORGAN	29 th April	Cardiff	9 th Oct	Irongate Pt - Porthcawl
CARMARTHEN	10 th May	Penclacwydd	28 th Sept	Penrhyngwyn
PEMBROKE	15 th April	Whitesands Bay	10 th Oct	Strumble Head
CEREDIGION	16 th April	Aberystwyth and Ynyslas	6 th Oct	Aberystwyth
BRECON	27 th April	Llangorse Lake	12 th Sept	Beacons Reservoir
MONTGOMERY	23 rd May	Llyn Coed y Dinas	25 th Aug	Lake Vyrnwy
MEIRIONNYDD	15 th May	Llyn Tegid	13 th Sept	Tonfannau
CAERNARFON	7 th April	Uwchmynydd	21 st Oct	Bardsey
ANGLESEY	17 th April	Cemlyn		
FLINT	15 th April	Connah's Quay NR	7 th Sept	Bagillt

ROSEATE TERN *Sterna dougallii***MORWENNOL WRIDOG**

(A) Now only an occasional breeder on Anglesey; elsewhere scarce on spring and autumn passage at coastal sites. Wales - Red listed.

Breeding information: ANGLESEY: At Cemlyn, a dark billed' Common Tern male (hybrid?) was seen copulating with a Roseate on 20th May, this possibly being the hybrid pair recorded regularly on the Skerries in recent years. Irregular sightings continued into early June, but between four and seven individuals were seen between 17th and 30th June. Two bred with Common Terns, laying one egg each. One young fledged. One was regular at Ynys Feurig from 3rd June-4th Aug with a pair on 2nd July and 29th July but no breeding was confirmed.

All other records were: PEMBROKE: Nine birds in Aug at Strumble Head: four on 27th and 28th and a single on 29th; MEIRIONNYDD: One in Mochras harbour on 13th May was the first county record since 2010; CAERNARFON: Three off Criccieth on 6th May and an adult off Bardsey on 11th Oct; ANGLESEY: Last recorded at Cemlyn on 13th July..

ARCTIC TERN *Sterna paradisea***MORWENNOL Y GOGLEDD**

(C) The commonest of the tern species breeding in Wales. It is confined to the Anglesey coast for breeding. Away from there, it is a regular passage migrant to coastal areas, generally scarcer than Common. Scarce inland. Wales – Red listed.

Breeding records were: ANGLESEY: 3,833 AON counted at the Skerries (compared to 3,547 AON in 2013), making this now the largest colony in Britain. At Cemlyn, a few pairs bred around the fringes of the Small Island, one on the Big Island and two on the inside of the ridge. 39 pairs were incubating, and they achieved moderate success with 15 chicks fledged from 39 nests (a breeding success rate of 0.38 chicks per nest).

Large counts elsewhere were: E. GLAMORGAN: Eleven off Irongate Point, Porthcawl, on 10th May and 20+ there on 11th May; PEMBROKE: At Strumble Head 17 birds recorded on six dates (max 6 on 3rd Sept); CEREDGION: No large counts this year; CAERNARFON: Maximum counts were nine off Llanfairfechan on 5th May and eight off Bardsey on 29th Aug; ANGLESEY: The maximum count was 10 in Silver Bay on 17th May.

Inland county records: BRECON: An increase in records: eight in April and six in May all at Llangorse Lake, singles at Talybont Reservoir on 26th Aug, at Beacons Reservoir (juvenile) on 16th Sept and at Llangorse Lake on 14th Oct; RADNOR: Three at Elan Reservoirs on 21st April, 4 at Llyn Heilyn on 20th April.

Earliest and latest dates by county were:

	Earliest	Site	Latest	Site
GWENT	26 th April	Goldcliff Point	10 th Sept	Llandegfedd Res
E. GLAMORGAN	10 th May	Irongate Pt , Porthcawl	13 th Oct	Kenfig river-mouth
CARMARTHEN	2 nd April	Penclacwydd		
PEMBROKE			21 st Oct	Ramsey & Strumble Head
CEREDIGION	11 th April	Aberystwyth	15 th Oct	Ynyslas
BRECON			9 th Oct	Llangorse Lake
RADNOR	20 th April	Llyn Heilyn		
MONTGOMERY	20 th April	Llyn Coed y Dinas		
MEIRIONNYDD			13 th Sept	Tonfannau
CAERNARFON	5 th May	Llanfairfechan	13 th Oct	Bardsey
ANGLESEY	23 rd April	Cemlyn	11 th Oct	Point Lynas
DENBIGH	20 th April	RSPB Conwy		
FLINT			28 th Aug	Point of Ayr

SABINE'S GULL *Larus sabini*

GWYLAN SABINE

(A) *An uncommon visitor to the coast in autumn, numbers vary according to the frequency of westerly gales.*

All records were: PEMBROKE: Another very poor year for this species at Strumble Head: In Aug, two juveniles on 27th, an adult on 29th and another two juveniles on 21st Oct. Elsewhere, there were single juveniles off Ramsey on 21st Oct and 7th Nov. A juvenile off Skomer on 19th Oct was the 3rd record for the island; CEREDIGION: One was reported off Aberystwyth on 21st Oct; CAERNARFON: One passed the Little Orme on 21st Oct. All other records came from Bardsey: an adult on 21st Sept, other records being of 1st winter birds - singles on 25th and 28th Sept, three on 21st and singles on 23rd Oct and 7th Nov; ANGLESEY: Four passed Point Lynas on 13th Oct; FLINT: One at Point of Ayr on 22nd Oct.

KITTIWAKE *Rissa tridactyla*

GWYLAN GOESDDU

(C) *A breeding species in coastal areas from Glamorgan to Caernarfon, except Meirionnydd. Large numbers occur offshore on passage.*

Numbers at the Welsh colonies have been in gradual decline since about 1996, with larger declines in the last few years. The index now stands at 50% of the 1986 baseline. Productivity fluctuates but shows no clear trend (JNCC). The count unit for breeding birds is the apparently occupied nest (AON). Breeding records were: PEMBROKE: 202 AON on St. Margaret's Island, eight AON on the Castlemartin Peninsula, 1,488 on Skomer (42% increase on 2013, cf 1,045), with a breeding success of between 0.26 and 0.86 chicks per apparently occupied site (based on observations at three study sites). 149 AON on Ramsey (a slight increase) and an average breeding success of 1.22 young per nest (from 23 nests counted); CEREDIGION: Breeding colonies between New Quay and Llangrannog. No boat-based surveys this year though it seems to have been a reasonable season at New Quay with 500 recorded there on 29th; CAERNARFON: 726 AON were counted from the

sea at Carreg y Llam on the Llŷn peninsula, compared to 359 AON in 2013. Additional sea-based counts of AON included 363 on St Tudwal's Island East and 15 at Trwyn Cilan. 104 AON were counted on Bardsey, an increase on the poor seasons in 2012 and 2013 (62). Productivity, estimated from part of the colony, was poor at 0.21 young per pair. 485 AON were recorded on the Great Orme, up from 314 AON in 2013, while 196 AON on the Little Orme was very similar to the 2013 figure; ANGLESEY: At South Stack, 80 were on cliffs on 7th April. Five pairs nested (eight in 2013) with 27 in the whole reserve (28 in 2013). 300 occupied nests were counted on Puffin Island from sea-based counts.

A summary of other records of live birds: GWENT: Max 33 off Peterstone Wentlooge on 25th May; E. GLAMORGAN: Max 42 off Lavernock Point on 7th May; CARMARTHEN: The prolonged period of stormy weather at the start of the year led to a large number of sightings between 4th Jan and 9th March, max. 15 at Marros on 23rd Feb. Occasionally recorded off Cefn Sidan between 29th April (5) and 16th June (28) with a maximum of 30+ on 2nd May. A single bird was at Kidwelly Quay on 27th Aug; PEMBROKE: Largest counts included: 500 off St. David's Head on 11th Jan, 400 on 19th Jan, 4,000 on 20th Nov and 1,000 on 30th Dec. 1,000+/hr recorded off Ramsey in Oct and Nov; CEREDGION: The highest counts (away from the New Quay breeding colony) included 80 at Aberystwyth on 13th Feb, 100 at New Quay on 25th Sept and 113 there on 21st Oct; BRECON: An adult at Llangorse Lake on 19th Feb; CAERNARFON: Gales in the first winter period resulted in many birds feeding close to shore, for example c. 30 feeding close to Pen y Cil, Aberdaron, on 2nd Jan. In spring, largest counts came from around the main breeding areas: 4,000 (counted from a boat) off the Great Orme on 25th May; 240 at the Little Orme on 14th April and 300 there on 27th May; 250 off Rhos Point on 23rd March. Counts of 50 or more outside the breeding season were: 60 off Criccieth on 19th Oct and 50 there on 26th Oct. Autumn passage past Bardsey peaked at 4,088 on 11th Oct.

Monthly max counts:

	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Bardsey	250	75	102	128	133	224	293	99	1,908	4,088	970	202

ANGLESEY: Max counts between Cemlyn and Carmel were: 200 on 12th Oct, 370 on 21st, 2,115 on 22nd and 105 on 16th Nov. At North Stack, 251 south in 3hrs on 21st Oct and 1,382 south in 2hrs on 22nd Oct. At Cemlyn, during strong winds, 30 flew west during on 11th May and 400 passed in two hours on 21st Oct. At Point Lynas, 3,000 passed in three hours on 22nd Oct; DENBIGH: Records of 1-12+ in the early months. The first was a single at Belgrano, Pensarn on 10th Feb, max count 12+ at Pensarn on 16th Feb. The last record of that period was six at RSPB Conwy on 18th April. The only record later in the year was four near Rhos-on-Sea on 7th Dec; FLINT: Six at Point of Ayr on 9th Oct and a max of 60+ at Prestatyn on 21st Oct.

Numbers of Kittiwake corpses reported from beaches checked for wrecked sea birds, following the severe winter storms:

	22 nd Feb	23 rd Feb	27 th Feb	28 th Feb	1 st March	5 th March	8 th March
E. GLAMORGAN							
Kenfig Sands						8	
CARMARTHEN							
Burry Port							1
Cefn Sidan	4				9		
Telpyn to Marros		12					
Ferryside		1					
PEMBROKE							
Bullslaughter Bay	1						
Broad Haven		1					
Newgale		4		10			
Pwllchrochan-Pen Caer			1				

BONAPARTE'S GULL *Chroicocephalus philadelphia*

GWYLAN BONAPARTE

(A) Rare vagrant, on BBRC list

Two birds recorded in E. GLAMORGAN. The regular bird, first seen in Cardiff in 2009, was at Cardiff Heliport from 12th Jan until 24th Feb, at Cosmeston CP on 25th Jan then at Cardiff Bay from 8th March to 3rd April. On 30th and 31st March it was joined by another bird with a more extensive hood pattern, presumed to be the 2013 Ogmore individual returning. A bird fitting this description was noted in Cardiff Bay 23rd and 25th - 26th March, but unfortunately the observers only noted one individual present. It wasn't until 30th March that two birds were seen in the Bay together, thus confirming the presence of two different individuals.

BLACK-HEADED GULL *Larus ridibundus*

GWYLAN BENDDU

(C) A locally common breeding resident and a common and widespread passage migrant and winter visitor. Wales – Red listed.

Numbers at coastal colonies in Wales have remained fairly stable, but there has been a significant decline in the numbers breeding inland over the past 30 years. Breeding records were: CARMARTHEN: A total of 251 fledged from the colony at Penclacwydd and a pair attempted to breed on the saltmarsh at Llangennech, but was unsuccessful; CEREDIGION: The only breeding report came from Llyn Eiddwen with two pairs in April, one pair in May and a pair in June defending probable young; BRECON: There were no breeding reports; up to 48 at Brechfa Pool (a former breeding site) during March/April showed some courtship behaviour but no attempt to breed there. Two flew north up the Wye valley at Llanwrthwl on 1st June, the observer commenting this was only the third sighting there in 13 years. This record, linked with a single on Caban Coch Reservoir on 23rd June, may indicate a small breeding population close by; RADNOR: 130+ pairs found at 8 sites but few young raised; MONTGOMERY: There were c.240 breeding pairs at the reserve at Llyn Coed y Dinas; ANGLESEY: At Cemlyn, 390 pairs bred on both islands in the lagoon. An

estimated 420 chicks fledged successfully from 390 nests, a breeding success rate of 1.08 chicks per nest. Five occupied nests were recorded at Valley Wetlands.

Monthly maximum counts from sites recording 1,000 or more at least once are:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
GWENT												
Undy foreshore	160	180	130		21		409	1,600	160	213	165	65
Peterstone Wentlooge	310	1,015	37		4			490	220		60	16
E. GLAMORGAN												
Cardiff Bay	300+	1000	750	700	-	5	350	240	170	370	320	350
Cardiff Heliport	-	200	100+	-	-	-	-	250	1000	-	-	-
Ogmore Est	1000	160	41	-	-	19	350	460	800	215	370	330
PEMBROKE												
Cleddau Est (WeBs)	535	694	118						1117	777	1181	458
Llys-y-fran Res												1000
The Gann		1000										1000
Newgale	1000											
CEREDIGION												
Teifi Estuary	3500											
Aberystwyth											2000	
BRECON												
Llangorse Lake	1700	1500	1000	240				48	6	160	800	700
MONTGOMERY												
Llyn Coed y Dinas			2100	1000+								
MEIRIONNYDD												
Glaslyn/Dwyrdd	601	350	2	24	-	-	400	750	1101	429	350	40
CAERNARFON												
Bardsey	36	23	1	36	3	11	31	38	1190	3937	559	276
Traeth Lafan	500	244	34			30	1850	3310	1072	219	109	125
ANGLESEY												
Carmel Head											1050	
Cemlyn										200+	2530	
FLINT												
RSPB Oakenholt	20	3,000	24	24	24	150	1000	300	200	30	100	70
Near Rhuddlan	3000	1				6	420	459		163	279	700

Other large counts (500 or more) were: E. GLAMORGAN: Other than at sites listed in the table above, max counts were: 550 at Roath Park Lake in Jan and 750 at Rumney Great Wharf in Sept; CARMARTHEN: Peak counts were at: Penclacwydd (690 in July and 800 in Aug) and Taf (560 in March and 785 in Oct); CEREDIGION: Other than at sites listed in the table above, the maximum count was 750 at Llanrhystud on 2nd Feb; ANGLESEY: 600 passed

Point Lynas on 22nd Oct; DENBIGH: 650 near Holt on 15th Jan and 800 at Trevalyn Meadows on 21st Feb.

LITTLE GULL *Larus minutus*

GWYLAN FECHAN

(B) *A fairly common, sometimes common passage migrant and winter visitor to the coast, scarce inland. Wales – Amber listed.*

Large counts (10+) were: PEMBROKE: At Strumble Head: 19 passed on nine dates between 26th Aug and 7th Nov, max nine on 21st Oct; CEREDIGION: Following strong winds early in the year there were numerous records from Aberystwyth/Tanybwlich between 3rd Jan and 5th March with an extraordinary maximum of 35 in Feb; CAERNARFON: In Jan and Feb, there were many records from the coast between the Glaslyn estuary and Pwllheli. Max counts were: 12 off Criccieth on 1st Feb, 11 there on 8th Feb, 15 off Afon Wen on 2nd Feb and 20 off Llanystumdwy on 27th Feb; ANGLESEY: 14 (10 adults and four 1st winter birds) in Holyhead Bay on 7th Jan.

Inland records were: MEIRIONNYDD: Two on the shore opposite the car park of Llyn Trawsfynydd on 29th April, the first inland record for this species in the county.

ROSS'S GULL *Rhodostethia rosea*

GWYLAN ROSS

(A) *Vagrant, on BBRC list.*

A 1st winter bird at Afan Rivermouth GOWER on 8th - 16th Feb was only the fourth record for Wales.

FRANKLIN'S GULL *Larus pipixcan*

GWYLAN FRANKLIN

(A) *Vagrant, on BBRC list.*

A 1st winter bird at Penclacwydd CARMARTHEN then at Crofty, Burry Inlet GOWER on 18th and 23rd - 28th April was the fourth record for Wales. The previous three records were also in these counties, two in Gower and one in Carmarthen.

MEDITERRANEAN GULL *Larus melanocephalus*

GWYLAN MOR Y CANOLDIR

(B) *An increasingly common visitor, chiefly to coastal counties at all times of the year. Rare inland. Wales – Amber listed.*

This species seems to be gradually establishing itself as a breeding bird in Wales. Breeding information: CARMARTHEN: A pair fledged a single bird at Penclacwydd, the first successful breeding in the county; ANGLESEY: During late April, four pairs established territories on the islands at Cemlyn. A fifth pair was observed on the small Island on 24th April, but did not stay. An unpaired adult tried to pair up with Black-headed Gulls on the (for

the fifth season running). During May it became more difficult to observe all the nests due to the vegetation growing high, but two large juveniles eventually emerged in June and quickly left the colony.

Monthly maximum counts from sites recording 10 or more at least once are:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
E. GLAMORGAN												
*Kenfig Pool	1(3)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10(4)	22(6)	3(7)	1(1)
CARMARTHEN												
Penclacwydd			5	8	10	27	28	1	1			
Burry Port/Pembrey Harb		1	1			4	41		15		1	
Llanelli Beach									58			
PEMBROKE												
Angle Bay	1	2			1			30				
Gann	10	36	15							71*	36	46
Newgale	20+	14										
Strumble Head					1		7	25	7	29	11	3
Fishguard Harbour	9	11	1					3	1	5		5
CEREDIGION												
Coast Llanon to Llanrhystud						65	172	565	108	70		
Aberystwyth							57			42		
CAERNARFON												
Traeth Lafan						3	14	3				
Traeth Penllech										30		
Bardsey	8	0	0	1	0	1	3	2	34	61	30	5
ANGLESEY												
Ynys Benlas							10	15	7	6	5	3
Cemlyn		2	6		17						5	

* Figures in brackets indicate the number of days in each month that produced reports.

Summary of other records were: GWENT: A record 6 adults at NWR Goldcliff Lagoons on 29th and 30th June; E. GLAMORGAN: Small numbers reported from several sites in every month of the year. Maximum counts were: 10 at Coney Beach on 23rd Jan, 33 at Rest Bay car park on 25th Sept and 27 at Sker Point on 11th Oct; PEMBROKE: Small numbers recorded in every month except June when there were no records, and from several locations, including 9 at Nevern in Oct and 9 at Goulthrop Roads in Dec; CEREDIGION: The usual summer/autumn build-up of numbers along the coast between Llanon and Llanrhystud, with record breaking numbers yet again this year. (See table above)). Other notable counts included 21 at Aberaeron on 7th Sept; BRECON: A 1st year bird was at Llangorse Lake between 26th March and 20th April. During this period, the same bird (identified by its incomplete tail terminal bar) was noted at Brechfa Pool on 12th

April; MONTGOMERY: Adults were recorded at Llyn Coed y Dinas on 18th March and 22nd June. A 1st summer bird was present there on 23rd May; CAERNARFON: Up to 3 reported from four locations between 10th Jan and 14th March. As usual, there were more records from late July onwards from several locations until late Oct, including 6 (5 adults and a 2nd summer bird) in the gull roost at Morfa Aber on 23rd July and 6 adults there the next day; ANGLESEY: Small numbers were widely reported from various locations throughout the year, including 7 at Four Mile Bridge on 11th Jan (6 adults and a 1st winter), 7 there on 13th March and 7 adults at Beddmanarch Bay on 16th Aug; DENBIGH: All but one record were of singles or presence but two west of Pensarn on 9th March. Inland records were one at Gresford Flash on 5th Jan (the first there since 2010) and on 1st and 17th Feb; FLINT: All but one record were of singles with two seen south of Rhyl on 22nd Feb. On 31st July, a French colour-ringed bird was seen on the Afon Clwyd near Rhyl.

COMMON GULL *Larus canus*

GWYLAN Y GWEUNYDD

(C) A numerous and widespread winter visitor with small numbers recorded on passage.
Wales – Red listed.

Monthly maximum counts from sites recording 500 or more at least once are:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
CARMARTHEN												
Cefn Sidan/Tywyn Pt	610	1940	288						34	397	139	
CAERNARFON												
Traeth Lafan	200	14	10		1		200	760	11	60+	2	12

Other large counts (300+) were: GWENT: 465 in sheep fields by the Monmouthshire Show Ground at Wyesham on 11th Jan; CARMARTHEN: Largest count was c.300 at Pembrey Harbour on 23rd Feb; CEREDGION: 500 at the Teifi estuary on 23rd Jan; CAERNARFON: A maximum of 445 at Bardsey in Oct; DENBIGH: The max count for the year was 600 at Worthenbury and near Ridleywood on 16th Jan. 300+ near Llanfair Dyffryn Clwyd on 8th March and 420 by the River Dee near Ridleywood on 20th Dec; FLINT: Max count for the year was 2,500 near Rhuddlan on 2nd Jan. Most counts for Feb were of 1-400 but there were 1,200 near Gronant on 16th Feb.

RING-BILLED GULL *Larus delawarensis*

GWYLAN FODRWBIG

(B) An uncommon but regular visitor to coastal areas, chiefly in the period from mid-Feb to the end of May. On WRP list.

All records were: GOWER: An adult at Blackpill on 1st - 27th March and an adult at Loughor on 11th March; PEMBROKE: An over-wintering adult was at Llys-y-fran Reservoir from December 2013 to 15th Feb. What was assumed to be the same returning bird was at Llys-y-fran Reservoir from 28th Dec until the end of the year; CEREDIGION: An adult at Llanrhystud on 15th March.

There was a large increase in the number of coastal pairs in Wales between 1969-70 and 1985-88, followed by a period of stability. The current trend is unknown, but the population may be declining (JNCC). The count unit for breeding birds is the apparently occupied nest (AON). Breeding records were: GWENT: The colony at Bedwas/Trethomas was still occupied and at Newport there were nesting pairs in and around the Uskside Business Park, with confirmed breeding at Llanwern Steelworks and Newport Docks, but no nest counts were made. Several pairs bred on the roof of the Robert Price premises on Corporation Road. At Chepstow, at least one pair on the roof of Fairfields Engineering, but a nest there was abandoned. A first confirmed breeding for Monmouth, at Hadnock Road, where 37 nests were recorded on factory roofs; E. GLAMORGAN: In Cardiff, breeding was confirmed at Clos Dewi Sant, Banastre Avenue (on chimney), Canton (3 pairs on factory roof), near Cardiff Central Station, Cardiff Riding School, Gabalfa Workshops Industrial Estate (minimum 20 nests), Ipswich Road Industrial Estate (41 nests) and North Road. Also bred at Clive Crescent, Penarth, (on chimney stack) and at Sully Moors and Ty Verlon Industrial Estate near Barry (total of 40 nests) and Sully Bay. On Flat Holm, there were 3,456 pairs on grassland, but the cliff nesting birds were not counted owing to poor weather; CARMARTHEN: Bred on a factory roof at North Dock, Llanelli, where 34 were seen on 3rd July; PEMBROKE: 676 AON on Caldey Island, 28 AON on Castlemartin Peninsula, 8,432 AON on Skomer, with a breeding success of 0.51 per nest, based on a count of 4,264 large fledged chicks. 1,565 AON on Skokholm (1,407 apparently incubating adults counted during the vantage point survey was 4.7% down on the 1,476 recorded in 2013). Breeding success (0.30 per nest) was low, based on an assessment of the ratio of ringed to un-ringed fledglings from 128 nests. Bred on Ramsey but no counts this year; CEREDIGION: Bred on Cardigan Island and a few pairs bred along the coast but no breeding counts were carried out this year; MONTGOMERY: A small breeding colony at Welshpool, but no counts reported; CAERNARFON: Sea-based counts of AON included: 13 on St Tudwal's Island East and 43 on St Tudwal's Island West. A survey of roof-nesting gulls produced the following results (units AON): Caernarfon: Town 1, Peblig Ind estate 11, Griffith's Crossing: Old Friction Dynamics works 78 (estimated), Felinheli 0, Bangor 10, Llandudno 9, Porthmadog 1, Pwllheli 0. Elsewhere a pair nested on the town walls at Conwy and nesting was also recorded at Llandudno Junction. On coastal cliffs, there were 38 AON on the Pen-y-clip headland near Penmaenmawr on 20th May. Inland, there were 16 AON at the Llyn Elsi colony on 25th May. On Bardsey, there was a big increase following eight years of low breeding numbers, with 315 apparently incubating adults (an 88.6% increase on 2013). At least 139 juveniles fledged, giving a productivity of 0.44. There were 10 apparently incubating adults and at least two juveniles on Ynys Gwylan Fawr on 26th June, and although it was not possible to land on Ynys Gwylan Bach, five apparently incubating adults were seen; ANGLESEY: Eight occupied nests at South Stack (11 in 2013) with 126 in the whole reserve (106 in 2013). Bred within Holyhead Harbour where 2 chicks were ringed in July. 282 occupied nests were recorded at the Skerries and four occupied nests at Valley Wetlands.

Monthly maximum counts from sites recording 200 or more at least once are:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
E. GLAMORGAN												
Cardiff Bay	50	2500	350	200	3	160	600	400	340	50	100	30
Roath Park Lake	50	41	77	150	-	-	-	180	213	-	-	-
PEMBROKE												
Cleddau Est (WeBs)	36	181	89						172	88	142	321
Llys-y-fran Res	3000	2500										1500
BRECON												
Llangorse Lake	1800	1520	600					0	0	0	1000	360
Talybont Reservoir	0	0	0					80	840	1625	0	0
CAERNARFON												
Bardsey	11	6	250	350	310	354	188	348	151	180	11	16

Other large counts (200+) were: E. GLAMORGAN: 300 at Rumney Great Wharf on 13th May; PEMBROKE: 700 at Marloes Mere on 30th July, 1,000 at the Gann on 6th Dec, 600+ at Castlemartin on 24th Aug, 650 on Frainslake Beach on 6th Sept, 380 at Little Haven on 1st March and 200 on the Teifi Estuary on 4th Dec ; CEREDIGION: The only notable count was 300 at the Teifi Estuary on 23rd Jan; BRECON: 410 (resting/washing) at Brechfa Pool on 8th Feb. By the end of Aug, Llangorse attracted up to 400 birds at dusk that soon moved SW by nightfall; MONTGOMERY: 240 roosting at Lake Vyrnwy on 7th Sept was the highest count of the year.

HERRING GULL *Larus argentatus*

GWYLAN Y PENWAIG

(C) Formerly an abundant resident in coastal areas, now much reduced on the islands and a scarce breeding bird on the mainland coast. Frequent in many inland areas, breeds on several freshwater sites. Wales – Red listed.

Numbers breeding in Wales fell by 77% between 1969-70 and 1985-88, followed by a 26% increase up to 1998 – 2002. Since then, the numbers appear to have been stable, but with an increase in the number of roof-nesting birds (JNCC). The count unit for breeding birds is the apparently occupied nest (AON). Breeding records were: GWENT: A few pairs were amongst a colony of Lesser Black-backed Gulls at Bedwas/Trethomas and at Newport there were several pairs in and around the Usk-side Business Park, and confirmed breeding at Llanwern Steelworks and Newport Docks. On Denny Island a single nest with two pulli was recorded on 8th June and at Chepstow a breeding attempt was abandoned. Away from the usual colonies, a first confirmed breeding for Monmouth, at Hadnock Road, where two pairs nested successfully on factory roofs; E. GLAMORGAN: There were very few confirmed breeding reports, with no count possible on Flat Holm owing to adverse weather. A pair was collecting nest material in Adamstown on 4th April, a pair were on a nest near Cwm Nash on 18th April, there were 6 nests at Ipswich Road Industrial Estate, Cardiff, on 8th June, and three chicks were noted on the industrial units at Ty Verlon Industrial Estate, Sully, on 19th June; CARMARTHEN: Bred on a factory roof at North Dock, Llanelli, where 165 were seen on 3rd July and on buildings in Llanelli town centre, where 30+ were seen on 5th July;

PEMBROKE: 1,890 AON on Caldey Island, 244 AON on Castlemartin Peninsula, 440 AON on Skomer, with a breeding success of 0.52 chicks per nest (based on observations of 23 mapped nests). There were 300 AON on Skokholm, with a breeding success of 0.70 per nest (based on observations of 146 mapped nests). Bred on Ramsey but no counts this year; CEREDIGION: No breeding counts were carried out this year; MONTGOMERY: Bred at Newtown, but no counts reported; MEIRIONNYDD: A pair bred at Llyn Cau, Cadair Idris with 3 chicks on the island in the lake on 18th June; CAERNARFON: Five AON were counted on land from the sea at Carreg y Llam on the Llŷn peninsula. Other sea-based counts of AON included: two at Murian and five at Porth Ceiriad East, eight at Porth Ceiriad West, 97 on St Tudwal's Island East, 286 on St Tudwal's Island West, 15 at Trwyn Cilan and one at Trwyn yr Wylfa. A survey of roof-nesting gulls produced the following results (units AON): Caernarfon: Town 21, Peblig Ind estate 18, Griffith's Crossing: Old Friction Dynamics works 270 (estimated), Felinheli 8, Bangor 84, Llandudno 102, Porthmadog 54, Pwllheli 0. Roof-nesting was also recorded at Conwy, Llandudno Junction, Penrhynside and Rhos-on-sea. On coastal cliffs, there were 49 AON on the Pen-y-clip headland near Penmaenmawr on 20th May. Breeding occurred on the Great Orme and Little Orme, but no full counts reported. Breeding was also recorded at Trefor. Inland, there were 55 AON at the Llyn Elsi colony on 25th May. One pair bred on a boulder in Ffynnon Lloer in the Carneddau, at an altitude of 678 metres. On Bardsey, there were 399 breeding pairs, an increase on 2013. At least 276 juveniles fledged, giving a productivity of 0.69. There were 43 pairs on Ynys Gwylan Fawr on 26th June, and although it was not possible to land on Ynys Gwylan Bach, 18 AON were seen. The combined total of 61 pairs is a big decrease on the 135 counted in 2011, but good productivity of 1.15 young per pair; ANGLESEY: 194 AON at South Stack (+12% from 173 in 2013) and 1,006 AON at the Skerries. 12 pulli were ringed at an undisclosed site; DENBIGH: A single AON at RSPB Conwy was unsuccessful.

Monthly maximum counts from sites recording 1,000 or more at least once are:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
CARMARTHEN												
C Sidan/Tywyn Pt	2005	752	56						294	551	52	52
PEMBROKE												
Newgale	1000	1000										
CEREDIGION												
Teifi Estuary	1000		500									
BRECON												
Pontsticill Res.	2000	1100	nc					nc	nc	1375	1682	3800
CAERNARFON												
Little Orme	200	1500		140	46	20						
Rhos Point		194	102	1200	40	405	60	600	1190	1200		100
Traeth Lafan	2000	281	290		200	322	554	199	525	490	300	108
FLINT												
Talacre	1	5	220	1	2	600	15		20	1500	160	900
Point of Ayr		1600	19		37	1200	1200	200	60	40	50	400
Gronant		2500										

Other large counts (500 or more) were: E. GLAMORGAN: 800 at Cardiff Bay/Cardiff Bay WR in Feb, 608 at Col-huw Point on 30th Aug and 500 at Ogmere Estate in Oct; PEMBROKE: 500 at Amroth on 12th Jan, 800 at Llys-y-fran Reservoir on 28th Dec, 700+ on Ramsey in Sept; CAERNARFON: There were 4,000 in the Bangor area on 13th Jan and 2,000 in Llandudno Bay on 30th Dec. On Bardsey, there were 600 in March, 637 in May and 560 in June; ANGLESEY: 1,500 at Traeth Lligwy on 20th Dec and c.2,000 there on 22nd Dec; DENBIGH: The maximum count was 600+, at Towyn, on 12th March.

YELLOW-LEGGED GULL *Larus michahellis*

GWYLAN GOESFELEN

(A) An uncommon and irregular winter visitor to coastal areas, formerly rare.

All records were: GWENT: An adult roosted at Llandegfedd Res on 19th Jan, an immature and an adult there on 26th Sept and another record here on 31st Dec; E. GLAMORGAN: Present in Cardiff Bay on 4th and 6th Jan; singles there from 12th to 19th Feb and on 6th and 27th March. An adult at Cosmeston CP, on 6th Jan; singles there on 11th and 15th Jan and on three dates in Feb and March. Elsewhere, Lisvane Reservoir had un-aged singles on 22nd Feb and 1st March and an adult on 22nd March. Singles at the Knap Lake on 19th Feb and Flat Holm on 4th May. Regularly reported at Cosmeston CP: singles on three dates in July, two in Sept, a 2nd winter bird on 1st Oct and on ten dates in Dec. Elsewhere, singles at Lisvane Res on 30th July and at Cardiff Bay on three dates in Sept. Present at Kenfig river mouth on 3rd Oct; one at Lisvane Reservoir on 17th Nov and finally an adult at Roath Park Lake on 13th and 14th Dec; CARMARTHEN: Two adults at Sandy W.P. on 16th Feb; PEMBROKE: Single adults were recorded at Haystack on 7th Jan, Newgale 22nd to 24th Feb, Angle Bay on 1st Feb, Sprinkle Pill on 22nd Aug, at the Teifi Estuary on 31st Oct and at Goulthrop Roads on 26th Dec. Multiple records included those at Llys y fran Reservoir: up to two adults and two 2nd year birds, 26th Jan to 15th Feb; at the Gann: two adults on 6th Dec and one adult + 1st year bird on 21st Dec; at Nevern, adults on 20th - 21st Feb, up to two from 30th June to 30th Aug, and singles on 29th Sept, 5th and 7th Nov. A juvenile on Ramsey on 15th Oct was the first island record; CEREDGION: An adult and a 3rd winter bird at the Teifi estuary on 16th Feb, an adult there on 17th and 22nd Feb and again on 8th and 21st March. An adult at New Quay on 12th April and a 1st year bird at Llanrhystud on 25th Aug. Un-aged, but presumably adult birds were at Aberystwyth on 29th Jan, 24th Feb and 13th Nov; BRECON: Single birds at Llangorse Lake in Jan, Feb, March, Oct and Nov. Singles at Brechfa Pool in Jan and Feb with two there in March. The only other reports involved singles at Dderw Pool on 8th Feb (possibly the Brechfa bird), and within the LBB Gull roost at Talybont Reservoir on 23rd Sept and 26th Oct; RADNOR: At Glasbury/ Llowes, the adult from previous years was seen on many dates Sept to Dec; CAERNARFON: A juvenile on Bardsey on 24th July and an adult there on 14th - 16th Oct, the 2nd and 3rd records for the island; DENBIGH: Single birds or presence at Gresford Flash on 17th Jan, 22nd Feb and 16th Aug, at RSPB Conwy on 16th Aug and 19th Nov and near Borrass, Wrexham on 7th Dec; FLINT: Singles at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 17th and 22nd Sept may have been the same bird.

2013: E. GLAMORGAN: An adult at Cardiff Bay WR on 4th Jan and a 2nd summer bird at Cardiff Bay on 14th April.

CASPIAN GULL *Larus cachinnans*

GWYLAN CASPIA

(A) *Vagrant, on WRP list.*

All records were: E. GLAMORGAN: A 1st winter bird at Cosmeston Lakes CP on 8th Dec was the first accepted record for the recording area and the second Welsh record (see Denbigh record below). The observers secured a good photograph, which is essential in clinching this species; DENBIGH: The first accepted Welsh record for this species was a 1st winter bird, seen and photographed at Gresford Flash on 2nd - 6th Dec.

ICELAND GULL *Larus glaucoides*

GWYLAN YR ARCTIG

(A) *An uncommon and irregular winter visitor to coastal areas, formerly rare.*

All records were: GWENT: A first-winter bird on the Asda store at Brynmawr, on 17th Feb and an adult or near adult at the Nedern flood on the same date; E. GLAMORGAN: An adult at Dowlais Top on 11th Jan; CARMARTHEN: A 1st winter bird at Pembrey Harbour on 5th March; PEMBROKE: A large influx, starting mid-Jan, with individuals remaining until the end of Feb. The main sites were Newgale, Llys-y-fran Reservoir and Teifi Estuary, although some of these records may relate to the same individuals and there was some overlap with records at Teifi Estuary which straddles the border between Pembroke and Ceredigion. At Newgale, a 1st winter bird from 10th Jan, increasing to four 1st winter birds from 14th, with birds present at this site until 22nd Feb. At Llys-y-fran Reservoir, there were up to four 1st winter birds from 19th Jan to 2nd Feb. At the Teifi Estuary, a 1st winter bird on 9th and 19th Feb, and two there on 1st March. Later records were: a 1st winter bird on Skomer on 1st April, an adult at Teifi Estuary on 7th May, another at St. David's Head on 21st May, a 1st year birds at the Gann on 30th Dec; CEREDIGION: An excellent year with a 1st winter bird at the Teifi estuary on 9th and 16th Feb, a 1st winter bird at New Quay on 9th March, a 2nd year bird at Mwnt on 15th April, a 1st winter bird on the Teifi estuary on 27th April, a 1st year bird at Aberystwyth on 6th May and an adult on the Teifi estuary on 7th May; BRECON: An adult was in the Pontsticill Reservoir gull roost at dusk from 16th to 25th Jan; CAERNARFON: The only mainland record was one at Foryd on 20th April. A 1st winter bird was off Bardsey on 22nd and 23rd April and a 1st summer bird was there on 27th May; ANGLESEY: An adult flew west through Holyhead Bay on 3rd Jan. Two adults were at Pentraeth on 6th Jan. One was on the Menai Strait off Sea Zoo on 11th April. A 1st summer bird was roosting at Cemlyn bay on 5th May, before flying west; DENBIGH: All records were of presence or a single in the Wrexham area from 14th Jan, at Rossett to 24th Jan and at New Hall, Ruabon, all possibly the same bird.

Larus glaucoides kumleini ("Kumlien's Gull")

Very rare vagrant from Greenland.

E. GLAMORGAN: An adult at Ogmore on 11th and 17th March; GOWER: A 1st winter at Blackpill on 8th Feb and 2nd March and an adult at Aberavon on 16th Feb; PEMBROKE: Two adults, both at Newgale, one from 10th Jan to 22nd Feb; and the second there on 15th - 18th Feb.

GLAUCOUS GULL *Larus hyperboreus*

GWYLAN Y GOGLEDD

(A) An uncommon but regular visitor to coastal areas of Wales, chiefly in winter but has been recorded in summer.

All records were: E. GLAMORGAN: One at Mynydd Ty-talwyn near Maesteg from 21st Feb to 17th April; CARMARTHEN: It was a good year for this species: a 2nd winter bird on Cefn Sidan on 5th and 7th Feb; an adult at Pembrey Harbour on 3rd March, which remained in the area to 23rd. Probably the same individual was at Llanelli Beach on 27th March. Two unaged individuals were at Marros on 9th March. These were the first records since 2011; PEMBROKE: All records were: at Newgale, 4th Jan to 22nd Feb, one adult and another sub-adult, three 1st winter (2nd Calendar Year birds); at Freshwater West a 3rd winter bird on 28th Jan; at Penally a 2nd year bird on 13th March. Un-aged birds reported at Ramsey on 4th and 11th March and a different bird there on 12th April and at St. Govan's Head on 15th March. On Skomer, a 1st winter bird on 15th, 17th and 19th March and another bird on 21st April. A Glaucous x Herring hybrid was at Freshwater West on 28th Jan, up to two at Newgale in February, and two were observed coming to roost on Skomer on 18th March; CEREDIGION: A remarkable series of records: one on 21st Jan, two 1st winter birds on 13th Feb and one on 14th Nov all off Aberystwyth. Away from there, a 2nd winter bird at Aberaeron on 26th Oct; MONTGOMERY: A 2nd winter bird at the Upper Dyfi Estuary on 5th Oct; CAERNARFON: The only records came from Bardsey: an adult on 5th Jan with possibly the same bird on 2nd Feb. Two, an adult and a 1st winter bird, on 6th April and a 1st winter bird on 19th May; ANGLESEY: 1st winter and 2nd winter birds near Valley and Beddmanarch Bay on 12th Jan and a juvenile at Tywyn Fferam, Rhosneigr, on 3rd and 28th Feb and 27th March. One was on Llyn Maelog on 10th March and one between Cemlyn and Carmel the same day. A 1st winter bird at Cemlyn on 24th March and a 1st summer bird at Cemlyn on 5th May, seen later with an Iceland Gull; DENBIGH: Reported present at Llanddulas on 9th Feb.

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL *Larus marinus*

GWYLAN GEFNDDU FWYAF

(C) Common and widespread in coastal areas in winter, widely distributed breeding bird on rocky coastlines in single pairs or small colonies. Wales – Red listed.

There was a 68% decrease in the Welsh breeding population between 1969-70 and 1985-88, followed by a steady increase, though numbers are still below the 1969-70 total (JNCC). The count unit for breeding birds is the apparently occupied nest (AON). Breeding records were: GWENT: 10 AON were counted on Denny Island on 8th June, and 20 pulli were ringed; PEMBROKE: Six AON on Caldey Island, four AON on Castlemartin Peninsula, 107 AON on Skomer, with a breeding success of 1.88 chicks per nest (based on observations of 25 mapped nests). There were 84 AON on Skokholm, with a breeding

success of 0.93 chicks per nest (based on observations of 27 mapped nests). Bred on Ramsey but no counts reported this year; CEREDIGION: A small breeding colony on Cardigan Island and scattered breeding pairs along the coast, but no breeding counts were carried out this year; MEIRIONNYDD: 2 birds on rocks at Llyn Caer Euni on 29th March were possibly holding early territory; CAERNARFON: Sea-based counts of AON included: 12 on St Tudwal's Island East and 22 on St Tudwal's Island West. There were occupied nests at Trefor on 3rd June and on the Little/Great Orme on 7th June. Five pairs bred on Bardsey, three fewer than the record number in 2013. 76 nest platforms and 52 juveniles were recorded on Ynys Gwylan Fawr on 26th June. It was not possible to land on Ynys Gwylan Bach, but three nest platforms and 7 juveniles could be seen. The combined total of 79 pairs is the highest recorded there, although productivity at 0.75 was below average. Inland, a pair was present on the island at Llyn Conwy on 15th May and a pair with three juveniles there on 25th June. A calling pair at Llyn Dinas on 16th April, but not seen here subsequently; ANGLESEY: One pair nested at South Stack (no change from 2013) with 6 in the whole reserve (5 in 2013). At Cemlyn, two pairs resident around the reserve. 25 AON at the Skerries and 5 AON at Valley Wetlands; DENBIGH: Confirmed breeding at the BT Openreach building roof at Mochdre with nests of other species nearby.

Monthly maximum counts from sites recording 30 or more at least once are:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
CARMARTHEN												
Cefn Sidan/Tywyn Pt.	50	65	22						9	31	36	21
Taf		16	6						32	7		6
PEMBROKE												
Frainslake/Bluckspool								70	135			
Cleddau Est (WeBs)	15	27	26						9	10	25	36
CEREDIGION												
Teifi Estuary										30		
CAERNARFON												
Traeth Lafan	20	11	12	3	2	6	4	45	16	8	22	12
FLINT												
Oakenholt	2	10	4	9		20	8	16	30	6	120	13

Other counts (20 or more) were: PEMBROKE: Largest counts were 30 at Newgale on 10th Jan, 34 at Giltar Point – Penally on 15th March, 30 at the Gann on 31st July and 30 there on 30th Dec; CEREDIGION: 27 at Ynyslas on 19th Dec; CAERNARFON: Largest monthly counts on Bardsey were: 22 in March, 24 in May, 24 in Sept and 22 in Oct. Elsewhere 25+ were off the Little Orme on 3rd Oct; ANGLESEY: 89 were on Traeth Dulas on 2nd Sept.

FERAL PIGEON *Columba livia*

COLOMEN Y GRAIG

(C) Common resident in most towns and on some sea cliffs. Greatly under-recorded.

This species is ignored by many birdwatchers. BBS trends show a 47% increase in Wales between 1995 and 2013, and a 77% increase between 2013 and 2014. The presence of many non-breeders complicates population estimates. Large counts (50+) were: E. GLAMORGAN: In Cardiff, there were 70 at Ely and 110 at Victoria Park on 24th Jan, 55 at Cardiff Bay on 14th March, 129 at ST1576 on 4th April, 100 at Roath Park Lake on 16th Aug, 115 at Victoria Park on 28th Aug, 100 on 13th Sept and 120 there on 10th Dec. Elsewhere, 50 at Pontypridd on 14th Oct, 80 at Lavernock Pt on 20th Oct; GOWER: Most counts from Brynmill Park with 95 on 5th Feb, c.70 on 7th March, 124 on 30th Aug, 127 on 4th Oct, 125 on 15th Nov and c.115 there on 15th Dec. 260 birds regularly at Port Talbot town centre throughout the year and c.200 at Victoria Gardens/ Neath on 22nd Sept and 31st Dec; CAERNARFON: 50 at Treborth on 19th and 21st Jan; DENBIGH: 80+ in Kinmel Bay on 9th Feb; FLINT: The highest count was 60+ in Rhyl on 10th Jan.

STOCK DOVE *Columba oenas*

COLOMEN WYLLT

(C) Breeding resident occurring widely but not numerously up to approximately 305 m; most common in lowland areas.

BBS results indicate a 114% increase in Wales between 1995 and 2013, the third-highest increase for any species. At least in some counties, this is not always obvious on the ground. GWENT: In the first winter period: 58 at Brooksholm on 8th Jan. Nests found at Gobion and Penallt, while at a farm near Cefn-y-crib two pairs fledged chicks from Tawny Owl nest boxes and one pair from a Barn Owl nest box. An attempt in a third Tawny Owl box failed at the egg stage. Other breeding attempts there resulted in one nest being deserted at the egg stage, and eggs being predated from another nest. A nest at a farm near Brynithel was also predated at the egg stage. Autumn passage was observed, with 36 at Peterstone Wentlooge on 17th Aug and 57 there on 1st Nov; E. GLAMORGAN: All reports were from the area stretching from just north of the M4 to the coast. A pair nest building at Craig-y-Parcau, Bridgend, and display seen at East Aberthaw Quarry. The highest counts outside the breeding season were 72 at Lampha 1km square on 29th March, 40 at Dunraven on 15th Sept, and 91 at Hendre Lake on 13th Oct; GOWER: Probably bred at Margam Park and possibly at another 3 sites. Small numbers at 13 locations, max 19 flying to roost into Morfa Pinewood on 6th April; CARMARTHEN: The only notable counts were from Penlan Uchaf with 40 on 16th Dec. and 15 on 24th; PEMBROKE: Max. flocks reported were of 20 at Mathry on 4th Jan, 18 at Newton on 3rd Jan and 14 at Freshwater West on 27th Feb. During the breeding season noted at Llanychaer, Sealyham, Rudbuxton, Martel Bridge, Goodwick and Woodhouse. Singles were recorded on Skomer on 10th April and 31st Oct; CEREDIGION: Another increase in records with 39 records from 20 locations, compared to 15 records from 12 sites in 2013. Breeding season records came from Llanfair Clydogau, Teifi marshes, Ynys-hir, near Trisant, Lledrod, Blaenpennal and near Cors Caron. Outside the breeding season, the largest flocks were 23 on the sacrificial seed crop at Ynys-hir on 29th Oct and 22 at Ynyslas on 4th Dec; BRECON: A red clover crop at Llwyfen Farm, Bwlch attracted 100 on 16th Jan. Two pairs searched potential nest-sites on Tremynfa Road, Bwlch on 28th Feb and between March and June, a further 27 singing

males/pairs were located in suitable breeding habitat. In autumn, 55 on freshly-sown cereals at Wern lagoon (Tregoyd) on 31st Oct; MONTGOMERY: Peak counts were much higher than in 2013 with 200 at Dolydd Hafren on 2nd March and 130 there on 3rd Feb; MEIRIONNYDD: Nearly all records came from the east of the county. The only indication of possible breeding was a record of presence at Pont Croesor on 29th June; CAERNARFON: The largest flocks were 50 at Caeau, Mynytho, on 4th Feb and 39 at Bodlondeb near Nanhoron on 14th Nov. There were several breeding season records around old quarries in the Nantlle valley, with at least one pair, possibly two, thought to have bred in disused quarries at Fron. Further east, one pair bred at Rachub; ANGLESEY: Widespread records of 1-5 birds, max 8 over Silver Bay heading south on 21st April. The species was thought to be breeding near Cemlyn; DENBIGH: Recorded in 48 1km squares, with a concentration in the east. The highest count was 40 at Gresford Flash. Breeding was confirmed by ringing at nests in Pandy, Mynydd y Glyn and Cerrigydrudion; FLINT: Recorded in 30 1km squares, again with a concentration in the east. The highest count was 16 at Sandycroft. Breeding was confirmed by ringing at nests in Sandycroft, Shotton and Rhydymwyn.

	Nesting attempts	Eggs	Eggs hatched	Young fledged	Young per nest
Beeches Farm	2	4	2	2	1.00
Rhydymwyn	3	6	5	5	1.67
Shotton Paper	5	10	4	2	0.40
TOTALS	10	20	11	9	0.90

WOOD PIGEON *Columba palumbus*

YSGUTHAN

(C) *Abundant breeding species: passage migrant and winter visitor.*

BBS trends show a 29% increase in Wales between 1995 and 2013. The largest counts are usually made during autumn movements in south and mid-Wales. GWENT: Autumn passage at Peterstone Gout peaked in Nov, with 29,160 on 1st, 6,500 on 4th, 64,100 on 5th, 60,800 on 6th, 1,610 on 9th, 2,251 on 16th and 2,950 on 30th. The lone Dec count from here was of 4,355 on 6th. Elsewhere on the coast, NWR produced four flocks totalling 1,665 on 22nd Oct. Inland, 1,130 were seen in about 15 minutes flying south past Mynydd Garnclochdy on 25th Oct and there were 1,420 at The Biblins, crossing into Monmouthshire from the Forest of Dean in half an hour on 15th Nov; E. GLAMORGAN: 1,000 at Pontprennau on 18th Sept. Autumn passage included 4,800 W over Atlantic Wharf on 22nd Oct. At Cogan Wood, Cosmeston, 500 went to roost on 22nd Oct. Passage continued with 1,380 NW at Kenfig NNR on 24th Oct, max 3,957 here from 27th to 29th Oct, and 500 SSW at Canton, Cardiff, on 31st Oct. Even higher counts in Nov, with 3,000 SSW at Canton on 1st, 3,000 at Leckwith Common on 2nd. 116,600 SW at Cardiff Bay from 07:15 to 10:30 on the 5th was by far the highest ever count for the recording area, with 500 each at Court Colman and Dunraven, 20,000 SSW at Canton also on the 5th and 500 S at Kenfig NNR on 10th Nov; GOWER: Max 230 over Margam Park on 26th Oct and 165 over there on 15th Nov; CARMARTHEN: There were c.80 at Pâl y Cwrt on 22nd Oct and c.300 flying north-west over Pembrey Forest on 5th Nov; PEMBROKE: Max. counts were from Skomer, where 550 east on 31st Oct and 115 on 9th

Nov. On the mainland a max of 150 at Llanychaer on 5th Nov feeding on Beech mast and 150 at Rushmoor on 31st Oct; CEREDIGION: 2,000 at Cwm Brefi on 29th Nov, 1,000 at Pant pool on 1st Dec and 1,000 at Llanddewi Brefi on 11th Dec; BRECON: Apart from autumn migration, several observers commented on how numbers have declined in recent years. This is borne out by relatively few records submitted in 2014, most relating to a rather modest autumn passage between 21st Oct and 6th Nov. 200/hour moved SSW over Pennorth on 28th Oct. The only significant feeding flock probably also involved autumn migrants, 200 on cereal fields at Tregoyd on 31st Oct; MONTGOMERY: The highest count was 500 at Dolydd Hafren on 26th Oct; MEIRIONNYDD: 60 heading south over Nant Prysor south plantation, Migneint on 28th Oct; CAERNARFON: 800 roosted in Coed Benarth, Conwy, during November. The only other large counts were 300 flying south over Uwchmynydd then turning back to land in trees near Porth Meudwy on 29th Oct and 140+ flying over Caerhun church to roost on 2nd Dec. A minimum of 10 pairs nested on Bardsey; ANGLESEY: Breeding pairs have increased in recent years at Cemlyn, though no juveniles were seen this year and very few post-breeding flocks; DENBIGH: The highest counts were 2,000 at RSPB Conwy on 14th Nov, 1,600+ at Penycae on 6th Nov and 500+ at Pensarn on 13th Dec; FLINT: The highest count was 98, when a regular stream in groups of 5-20 heading SE was observed over Pantymwyn on 14th Nov. This is the same date as the very high count at RSPB Conwy, suggesting a large-scale movement.

COLLARED DOVE *Streptopelia decaocto*

TURTUR DORCHOG

(D) Now a widespread and common resident, having first appeared in Wales in 1959.

Though there is no reason to think that the number of breeding pairs is declining, with BBS results showing a 26% increase in Wales between 1995 and 2013, there are fewer large counts than formerly. This may indicate a decline in the number of non-breeding birds. Counts of 15 or more were: GWENT: 17 together on wires at Llangua on 15th Sept; E. GLAMORGAN: 16 at Kenfig Dunes on 1st Oct, 19 at Kenfig NNR on 18th Oct and 15 there on 23rd Nov; GOWER: 15 at Victoria Park Swansea on 25th Jan, 15 at Crofty Ind Est on 22nd Feb and 17 over the A48/ Margam on 5th Oct; CARMARTHEN: 18 at Penclacwydd on 26th Nov; MEIRIONNYDD: 15 in a garden in Penrhyndeudraeth on 6th April; CAERNARFON: 37 in Llandudno town centre on 27th Dec; ANGLESEY: 25 at Cemlyn on 20th April, with 20 here on 22nd June, 27 at Soldier's Point on 15th May; DENBIGH: The highest counts were of up to 17 throughout the year in a garden in Towyn; FLINT: The highest regular counts were of up to 36 throughout the year in a garden in St Asaph.

TURTLE DOVE *Streptopelia turtur*

TURTUR

(B) Scarce summer visitor in eastern Wales with numbers declining further; passage migrant, mainly spring, in small numbers. Wales – Red listed.

There were no records of breeding or probable breeding. Records were mainly of passage birds: E. GLAMORGAN: One at Cosmeston Lakes CP on 2nd Oct; GOWER: A single bird at Ilston Common on 8th June; PEMBROKE: Singles on Skokholm on 15th, 19th and 21st - 22nd

May, with two present on 17th - 18th and on Skomer on 18th and 20th May; MONTGOMERY: A single bird was present at Morben Isaf (adjacent to Cors Dyfi) for the whole day on 22nd May; MEIRIONNYDD: One at Derwenlas on 22nd May; CAERNARFON: One on Bardsey on 17th-24th April and on the mainland one at Sarn on 23rd May. On return migration, there was one on Bardsey on 9th and 14th Sept; ANGLESEY: One was at Amlwch on 5th May and one on the Alaw Estuary on 14th Sept; FLINT: A single near Bodrhyddan Hall, Dyserth on 29th June was the first county record since 2009.

GREAT SPOTTED CUCKOO *Clamator glandarius*

COG FRECH

(A) *Rare vagrant, on BBRC list.*

A first year bird at Penally Golf Course on 11th - 28th March was the second record for PEMBROKE, the first being at Trefeiddan, St. David's, on 10th March 2009. There have been only two other records in Wales, at Plas Penhelig, Aberdyfi, Meirionnydd in 1956 and at Newborough, Anglesey in 1960.

CUCKOO *Cuculus canorus*

COG

(C) *Formerly a locally common breeding summer visitor to all counties but appears to be declining and far from common; also recorded on passage. Wales – Red listed.*

BBS results show a 29% decline in Wales between 1995 and 2013 but a 37% increase between 2013 and 2014. The BTO have attached satellite tracking devices to Cuckoos, including a number from Wales, to investigate their migration routes and wintering quarters. Results so far indicate heavy mortality on migration.

	Earliest	Site	Latest	Site
GWENT	11 th April	NWR Uskmouth	26 th July	Peterstone Gout
E. GLAMORGAN	7 th April	Pant-yr-awel	9 th Sept	Cardiff foreshore
GOWER	17 th April	Pant y Sais Fen & Upper Avon Morlais	7 th Aug	Quays/ Briton Ferry
CARMARTHEN	18 th April	Carmel	18 th June	Mynydd Pencarreg
PEMBROKE	20 th April	Newport	19 th July	Rosebush Res
CEREDIGION	7 th April	Llyn Pendam	17 th Aug	Trisant
BRECON	16 th April	The Cwm, Llanwrthwl	15 th Aug	Brynich (Brecon)
RADNOR	17 th April	Gilfach and Painscastle		
MONTGOMERY	2 nd April	Lake Vyrnwy	6 th Aug	Hafren Forest
MEIRIONNYDD	18 th April	Llyn Celyn	22 nd June	Craig y Geifr, Aran Benllyn
CAERNARFON	13 th April	Clegir	27 th July	Bardsey
ANGLESEY	15 th April	Penrhos CP	16 th Aug	Llyn Penrhyn
DENBIGH	14 th April	RSPB Conwy	27 th June	Nant y Ffrith
FLINT	29 th April	Penycloddiau	13 th June	St. Asaph

GWENT: Birds recorded at about 45 locations, with just two in the south-eastern part of the county. NWR Uskmouth held between three and five on the 30th, four were noted on the Sugar Loaf on 4th May, 7 reported near Goytre Wharf on 30th May; E. GLAMORGAN: No confirmed breeding but 14 males reported calling. Two pairs in suitable habitat at Taff Bargoed on 31st May, three males chasing a female at Llanilid on 29th May, and breeding reported as possible at Llantrisant Common. Max counts were 5 at Mynydd Eglwysilan on 18th May, 4 at Llanilid on 29th May, 4 at Taff Bargoed on 31st May, 3 at Mynydd Gelliwion on 3rd June, and 4 at Craig Fargoed on 15th June. In all, birds were recorded at 66 locations; GOWER: Reported from 56 locations; CARMARTHEN: Records of 1-3 birds from 26 locations, a big increase on the last few years; PEMBROKE: Records of single birds from the islands included: on Ramsey 22nd April, 16th, 20th & 28th May also 30th June; on Skokholm on 5th and 21st May; on Skomer on 26th May and 18th June; CEREDIGION: Recorded at 30 locations across the county, compared to 25 in 2013; BRECON: Males called from 30 sites, all close to common-land in the uplands. Few females were heard 'bubbling', with confirmed presence on Cefn Moel, Cwm Sorgwm and at Y Gors (Trecastle). There were no reports of juveniles; RADNOR: Similar numbers to 2013; MONTGOMERY: Scattered records throughout the county with birds showing a preference for higher ground. Multiple birds present at Lake Vyrnwy, with juveniles here later in the summer. Cors Dyfi and the Hafren Forest were other 'hot-spots'; MEIRIONNYDD: Breeding season records were received from 75 sites. No counts over 2 birds were received apart from 3 in the Llanfachreth area on 5th May. A recently fledged imm seen at Gwaith Powdwr on 5th June; CAERNARFON: Birds were recorded at a total of 56 sites. The highest counts were 4 in Nant Ffrancon on 6th and 21st May and a minimum of 4 birds, including 3 males, in Nant Gwynant on 19th May. The only record of confirmed breeding was a chick found in a Meadow Pipit nest near Llynau Mymbyr on 5th June. The chick was later ringed, and was still in the nest, though now fully grown, on 22nd June. A juvenile found on Bardsey on 1st July was thought likely to be the first breeding record here since 2008; ANGLESEY: Singles were recorded at 13 sites; DENBIGH: Recorded in 61 1km squares. The highest count was 5 at both Llyn Brenig on 25th June and Craig Bronbannog on 12th June. At the latter site on 11th June 12 were seen going, together into the same part of the forest to roost at nightfall. This is an unusual and rarely recorded (if ever) element of behaviour by Cuckoo; FLINT: Recorded in 11 1km squares, no count of more than two.

BARN OWL *Tyto alba*

TYLLUAN WEN

(C) A breeding resident in all counties, the population may be stable in the long term in many counties after a prolonged period of decline. However, numbers are still reduced in many areas following a run of cold winters. Wales – Amber listed.

Population trends for this species appear to be rather mixed. BBS trends are not available for Wales, but a 219% increase was recorded in the UK between 1995 and 2013. There was a significant decline of 42% between 2013 and 2014, but 2014 was said to have been a highly successful breeding season in England with high productivity, including pairs rearing third broods late into the year. The position in Wales is less clear. GWENT: Only 15 records were received, as against 24 last year. Eight came from the north of the county,

five from the centre and two from the south. In the breeding season five chicks from a brood of eight fledged in Blaenau Gwent and a nest with five eggs was recorded in the Llanarth area in mid-April. Three young birds seen near Llanbadoc in the autumn; E. GLAMORGAN: Breeding was confirmed at Bargoed and was probable at Brithdir and at Castle-upon-Alun. Birds were reported at 15 locations; GOWER: Bred at Handref Fawr and near Brynnau Farm. Recorded at 6 other sites; CARMARTHEN: Bred at Llangadog with records from another 12 sites; PEMBROKE: Reported from just 12 locations and one pair was known to have bred. A dead bird was found near Marloes Youth Hostel on 14th Oct. On Ramsey singles on 21st May and 3rd & 18th Sept; BRECON: No evidence of a particularly successful breeding season. A pair raised one juvenile near Crickhowell, and two heard hissing and screeching in Llywel in late-August suggests breeding there. During the breeding season, single adults were reported from 5 other sites; RADNOR: Very good breeding season with one clutch of 9 and a brood of 7 young raised where Short-tailed Voles in huge numbers. Still not back to 2009 population; MONTGOMERY: Following the catastrophic year in 2013 when deep snow eliminated all Barn Owl breeding except in the south west corner of the county, 2014 was a significant improvement. A total of 37 breeding pairs were recorded which returned the species to 2012 levels; MEIRIONNYDD: Confirmed or probable breeding at three sites; CAERNARFON: A winter survey found 23 pairs in Arfon, and new nest boxes were installed. This suggests that the county population, including pairs in Llŷn, may be larger than the 25-30 pairs previously estimated. One took up residence in a nest box on Bardsey in early May, with singles also recorded on the island in Sept and Nov; ANGLESEY: One pair fledged 6 young at RSPB Malltraeth. Single birds were recorded at another 4 sites; DENBIGH: Recorded in 21 1km squares. Breeding was proven at 3 localities by ringing of 3-5 nestlings: Llangedwyn in the Tanat Valley on 14th June and two localities on Mynydd Hiraethog, near Gwytherin and Glasfryn, on 18th June. There were 4 records of 2 birds together: twice near Whitchurch on 23rd and 28th May, at Llangollen on 15th June and at Bangor-is-y-Coed on 5th Aug; FLINT: Recorded in 6 1km squares. Breeding was proven at Sandycroft with 6 nestlings ringed on 19th May.

LITTLE OWL *Athene noctua*

TYLLUAN FACH

(C) Locally common breeding resident in some eastern counties, scarcer and probably decreasing in the west. Records have been fewer in many counties in recent years, and it has been suggested that the species is now more nocturnal than previously.

The Little Owl appears to be in continued decline in many counties. GWENT: The species seems to be in very steep decline in the county, with only nine records submitted, compared with 26 last year, 33 in 2011 and 50 in 2010. All were of singles, at NWR Uskmouth, Llanwenarth, near Llanfair Kilgeddin, Llanelly and Duffryn, and no reports of breeding were received; E. GLAMORGAN: No confirmed breeding reports but birds seen in suitable habitat during the breeding season at Deri, Bargoed, at Sker Farm and at Ogmere. Outside the breeding season, there were singles at Rumney Great Wharf, Gelligaer Common, Aberthaw, Church Village, Bargoed, Wentloog Level, Southerndown Farm and Pant-yr-Awel; GOWER: 2 calling near Talbot Memorial Park on 24th Oct; CARMARTHEN: A record of one at Salem on 8th April was the first since 2011; PEMBROKE: On Ramsey four pairs

present with chicks confirmed from two nests. One pair bred on Skomer rearing two chicks. On Skokholm a single bird 4th - 13th March was the first record on the island for 18 years. On the mainland one at Lochvane, Solva on 23rd Nov was the only record; CEREDIGION: One at Llansantffraed Church, which had fallen down a bell rope shaft, was rescued and released on 9th Oct and one flew in front of a car on the Borth to Clarach road on 5th Dec; BRECON: Pairs fledged chicks at a site near Bronllys and near Talgarth, with single adults observed at another three sites. Unreported in recent editions of *Breconshire Birds*, single pairs at Gludy maintained a long lineage by nesting in a lone field oak for 45 years, last successfully breeding there in 2013, until apparently ousted that autumn by squirrels. Pellet and feather evidence was subsequently found in oaks 300 metres away, and a single adult was seen on one date. None were found in the Talybont or Scethrog/ Llanhamlach areas in 2014; RADNOR: Records from 3 sites in the east and south; MONTGOMERY: Just 3 late summer sightings: from near Welshpool, Pwll Penarth and Trefeglwys; MEIRIONNYDD: A single at Llandrillo on 4th May and at least one in a hayloft at Yr Ysgwrn, Trawsfynydd on 2nd and 8th July; CAERNARFON: In the Conwy valley, a pair were on a clutch in a nest box at Ty'n-y-groes on 23rd April and there were singles at Ty'n-y-groes on 29th March and above Rowen on 6th Dec. The only records from Arfon were one at Ceunant on 26th April and one at Tan-y-coed on 3rd May. On Llŷn, the species was reported present at Bryn Gwynt, Anelog, on 6th Feb and 10th March and there were singles at Cadlan Isaf, Aberdaron, on 29th and 30th June and at Lôn Las, Rhiw, on 14th Sept and 4th Dec. Three territories on Bardsey, but only two pairs confirmed breeding, one fledging at least two young and the other at least one; ANGLESEY: One pair bred successfully at Cemlyn, with a second pair possibly breeding, and birds were recorded at four other sites; DENBIGH: In the Marford/Burton area, 2 on 2nd March and singles on 8th March and 13th July. There was one near the River Dee at Sutton Green, E of Wrexham, on 16th March and another near the Chirk Marina on 12th April; FLINT: No proof of breeding, and singles at Flint on 31st July and 2nd Dec were the only records. The steady decline in records over the past 20-30 years was considered to be a particular cause for concern in this county.

TAWNY OWL *Strix aluco*

TYLLUAN FRECH

(D) A common and widespread breeding resident in areas of woodland in all counties.

This species is not well covered by surveys and is greatly under-recorded in most areas, so there is no good information on population trends in Wales. GWENT: Widespread reports, though breeding confirmed at only 6 locations, with one other probable; E. GLAMORGAN: Breeding was confirmed at 4 sites, with birds recorded at 58 locations, mainly birds calling at night. One on Flat Holm on 11th Oct was unusual; GOWER: Bred at 3 sites, present in the breeding season at another 7 sites and recorded at a further 20 sites; CARMARTHEN: A pair bred in a nest box at Carmel, with records from another 6 sites; BRECON: Heard at 26 sites across the county, with a number calling by day. A pair bred in Llanigon, and in June chicks were photographed at breeding sites at Blaenllynfi and Bronllys Hospital and juveniles were heard near Aber and in Defynnog. Ten road casualties were found along the A470 and A40 within seven miles of Brecon. Six of these, most likely juveniles, were noted in Aug/Sept with half being on the early morning of 7th Sept; MONTGOMERY: Reported from 71% of summer gardens in the MWT Breeding Bird Survey. In the winter 80% of

gardens reported the species. Tawny Owls enjoyed a much better season than the previous year, for example, 7 nests found at Lake Vyrnwy in 2014 compared to just one in 2013; MEIRIONNYDD: Records of breeding or possible breeding from 11 sites; CAERNARFON: Confirmed breeding at Conwy, at Gyffin near Conwy and in the Bangor area. Elsewhere, widespread records of 1-2 calling birds from lowland and semi-upland areas; ANGLESEY: Recorded at 11 sites; DENBIGH: Recorded in 40 1km squares. Breeding was proven at Clocaenog Forest. The highest count of 4 was in the Dee Valley near Rhewl on 1st Dec; FLINT: Recorded in 16 1km squares. Breeding was proven at Rhydymwyn, near Mold and at Devil's Gorge, Pantymwyn. The highest count of 4 was at Rhydymwyn on 27th Feb and 8th Sept. In both Denbigh and Flint the numbers of records were 50% above the average for the past 10 years.

	Nesting attempts	Eggs	Eggs hatched	Young fledged	Young per nest
DENBIGH	3	11	6	6	2.00
FLINT	1	2	1	1	1.00

LONG-EARED OWL *Asio otus*

TYLLUAN GORNIOG

(B) A scarce resident in some counties. Also a scarce winter visitor and passage migrant. Wales – Amber listed.

Though this species is far from common in Wales, a dedicated survey might well reveal more pairs than the handful of published records every year suggests. It is the most nocturnal of our owls, and often nests in remote areas. There is no evidence for any change in numbers in recent years. GWENT: The only records received were of breeding birds and 11 pairs were confirmed to be on territory in the Torfaen and Blaenau regions; E. GLAMORGAN: Two different birds at two locations during the breeding season, but no proof of breeding. On 30th Sept, feathers from a dead bird were found at Kenfig NNR, comprising bitten off primary and secondary flight feathers and also tail feathers; BRECON: One heard calling in the grounds of Honey Cafe, Bronllys, on 16th March, initially reported as a singing Hoopoe, could not be fully confirmed; RADNOR: Recorded from four sites in the north of the county; MONTGOMERY: A bird was trapped and ringed east of the Moelfre Hills on 15th Nov. Earlier in the year sightings from Llangurig (15th May) and Lake Vyrnwy, where there were at least 2 territories occupied by 2 immature birds; MEIRIONNYDD: A migrant bird on the beach at Tonfanau on 2nd Oct flew out to sea after being harassed by crows; DENBIGH: A male calling at World's End on 30th March, possibly with a female present, and nesting in the area later confirmed on 30th May. Other breeding season records at nearby Pendinas on 25th April and one in the Ceiriog Forest of the northern Berwyns on 14th May.

SHORT-EARED OWL *Asio flammeus*

TYLLUAN GLUSTIOG

(C) Scarce breeding resident. Winter visitor and passage migrant in small numbers to all counties. Wales – Red listed.

No reliable information is available on trends in the small Welsh breeding population. Records of breeding or possible breeding were: PEMBROKE: Three pairs bred successfully on Skomer rearing six chicks but no breeding reported on Ramsey; RADNOR: At least five pairs found in the breeding season at three sites where there were abundant Short-tailed Voles; MEIRIONNYDD: One at Hafod Uchel on 12th May One seen daytime hunting on two occasions in the breeding season within an area of the Migneint. The remains of an adult were found later in the season close to a Hen Harrier nest with an especially vicious female. At another moorland site near Bala on 27th May a Fox was observed taking either chicks or eggs from a nest, which was empty when checked. One seen daytime hunting on 2 occasions near Gelli Grin track, Cwm Hirnant; DENBIGH: The presence of 2 near Llanferres on 28th May suggests a possible breeding attempt in the Clwydian Range. The absence of records from western parts, even though this owl flies in daylight, suggests that it is under-recorded in the breeding season.

Passage and winter records were: GWENT: In the first winter period, 4 at Sluice Farm on 2nd Jan and three at Peterstone Wentlooge on 19th Jan. Singles were reported at NWR Uskmouth on 2nd Feb and at Peterstone Wentlooge on 16th Feb, with two there on 16th March. In the second winter period, singles at St Brides Wentlooge on 9th Nov and at NWR Saltmarsh on 14th Nov. At Waun Afon there was one on 18th and two on 23rd Nov and, in Dec, one on 3rd and two on both 20th and 29th; E. GLAMORGAN: Rumney Great Wharf produced reports of max 4 on 2nd Jan and 2 on 5th Jan, then 5 on 16th Feb, and 1 on 4th July. Also in this period there was one at Rhaslas Pond on 18th - 19th Feb, and one was reported at Kenfig NNR on 2nd Feb. In autumn there was just one report, 2 at Rumney Great Wharf on 29th Oct; GOWER: Singles at Llanrhidian Marsh on 20th Jan and at Baglan Bay dunes on 4th Feb; CARMARTHEN: There were 2 records of single birds, at Kidwelly Quay on 23rd Feb and Mynydd Llanllwni on 5th Sept; PEMBROKE: Mainland records all of singles: at Castlemartin Corse on 8th Jan, Gupton Farm on 30th Jan and 27th Feb, at St. David's Head on 24th March and at Strumble Head on 14th May. On Skokholm singles on 15th April, 2nd and 5th June and 1st Aug, then logged on 21 dates from 9th Sept - 23rd Nov with a max of four on 7th Nov; CEREDIGION: Only two records this year, one at Nant y Moch on 18th May and one at Llyn Hir on 3rd Dec; BRECON: One hunting the slopes of Gamrhiw (Llanwrthwl) on 16th Feb was the only early year record. Later in the year, one was on RSPB Carngafallt on 19th Oct, one at Nant y Gyhirych (Crai) on 13th Dec, and finally, one at Upper Neuadd Reservoir on 19th; RADNOR: Reported from 11 sites Sept to Feb, particularly Oct/Nov. Maximum of 7 in the Elan Valley on 4th Nov; MEIRIONNYDD: Only two records of singles in the first winter period. Birds were recorded at 6 sites in the second winter period, A regular roost was found on the Migneint from mid-November into February 2015, either at Nant Prysor north plantation or Y Gyfyng, Pont Tai Hirion. Up to 3 birds were seen at dawn and dusk, possibly a family party; CAERNARFON: There was one by the A5 near Bethesda on 15th March, one flew over the Conwy - Llandudno area on 4th April and there was one on Bardsey on 11th April. In the second winter period, there was one at Aber on 31st Aug, one on the Great Orme on 22nd Nov and two on Bardsey on 5th Nov with singles there on the 7th and 13th; ANGLESEY: One was over fields by the access road to the Inland Sea on 4th Jan and one flew past the Trwyn at Cemlyn on 15th May. In the second winter period, there were singles on The Range on 17th Sept, at Point Lynas on 12th Oct, at Cemlyn on 9th Nov and at Aberffraw on 16th Nov; DENBIGH: Passage birds

were seen at RSPB Conwy on 4th April and also as late as 10th May. Not all birds go to the coast in winter, since 2 were flushed from heather on the Migneint uplands on 15th Dec and one was seen in car headlights on Ruabon Mountain on 23rd Dec; FLINT: Winter records only from the Welsh part of RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands on 7th Feb and the coast at Gronant on 17th April.

NIGHTJAR *Caprimulgus europaeus*

TROELLWR MAWR

(C) *Widespread but scarce summer visitor, now mainly dependent on clearfell areas in forestry plantations. Wales – Amber listed.*

Nightjars are probably under-recorded, as birdwatchers tend to visit a small number of traditional sites to look for them; birds are probably missed elsewhere. Until there is a new national survey, population trends are not accurately known. Breeding records were received as follows: GWENT: Seven sites provided a total of 17 records, against 28 in 2013. Five records of one to six birds came from Coed y Llanerch between 14th May and 5th Aug, while only two records came from Cleddon Bog and adjacent Broad Meend with a maximum of four males. No formal records came from Beacon Hill, although males were heard there. Two records, each of one to three birds, came from Wentwood and St James Forestry. Blaenavon had one record, at Onllwyn. A report also came of a 'churring' male from a clear-fell on Old Church Common at Penallt; E. GLAMORGAN: Reported at Llanwonno from 15th May to 31st July, max 5 on 11th June and 23rd July. Elsewhere, 3 at Cefnpennar, Aberdare, on 2nd June and 3 at Blaencanaid Forest on 3rd June, with 1-2 birds recorded at Draethen, Bryn Du, Ogmore Forest, Onllwyn Forestry/Nant Cadlan, Coed Craig Ruperra, near Maesteg and at Llyn Fach NR, Rhigos; GOWER: Churring males at Mynydd Nant y Bar and Cwm Pelenna on 31st May and during June at Bryn Du on 5th, 2 pairs disputing territories on Mynydd Dinas on 8th, 2 males and a female at Pen Disgwylyfa, at Mynydd Penhydd and another west of Bryn on 11th, at Moel Troed-y Rhiw on 13th, 2 males and a female at Pelenna Forest, at least 2 at Twyn Gwyn and 1 at Cwm Pelenna on 18th, 2 males and a female at Glyncorrwg Forest on 20th. In July at least 3 on Mynydd Margam and another below Hafod Grange, and at Cwm Dyffryn on 10th, and in Crynant Forest a female and a juv on 20th; CARMARTHEN: The first record was of a bird churring at Glynsaer, Crychan Forest on 17th May. One was at Gelli Aur Country Park on 25th May. There were 2 in both Pembrey Forest on 28th May and Llanybydder Forestry on 31st. Four, including at least one male, at Crychan Forest on 14th June; CEREDIGION: One at Llancynfelyn/Cors Fochno in May, two at Bryn Glas, near Llanddewi brefi on 13th June and one at Llyn Pendam in late June; BRECON: Churring males were heard at Castle Drake (2) and Mynydd Wysg (1) in late-May, and at three sites in Talybont Forest in mid-July. Males were seen in flight over a Llaneglwys Forest (Werntoe) clearfell on 27th July, and hawking over Ogo Ffynnon Ddu in August. In late-August, a juvenile found injured by the A470 close to the Brecon-Glamorgan boundary at Nant-ddu was taken into care but later died; RADNOR: Found in the breeding season at 7 sites; MONTGOMERY: Birds were recorded at Cors Dyfi, Lake Glaslyn and Lake Vyrnwy. A survey in the Dyfnant Forest also apparently found multiple birds but the results have not been published; MEIRIONNYDD: Up to 4 territories in the Gwaith Powdwr area, and one pair in the Y Garn area within forestry; CAERNARFON: Almost all the records came from

the Cors Bodgynydd area, where birds were recorded from 17th May to 28th July. The highest counts were 3 here on 6th June and three churring at Cors Bodgynydd and one at Llyn Tynmynydd nearby on 12th June. Away from this area, one was again recorded at Uwchgwyrfai Common, Rhosgadfan, on 23rd June; ANGLESEY: Two were displaying in Newborough Forest in June, the first county record for many years; DENBIGH: The only records were near Craig Bron Bannog on 11th and 12th June 3 (2 of which were ringed) near Pont-yr Alwen on 13th June, plus a further record near Pont-yr-Alwen on 15th Aug.

SWIFT *Apus apus*

GWENNOL DDU

(C) A widespread summer visitor, but in long-term decline. Wales – Amber listed.

BBS data shows a 49% decline in Wales between 1995 and 2013, with a further 18% decline between 2013 and 2014. Although well recorded on passage and in suitable habitat at the right time of year, breeding records for this largely urban species are on the whole, sparse. If more counties could rival the level of recording in Breconshire, the picture would be much more complete and help with the local protection of the species. Records of breeding or probable breeding were: GWENT: 20 'screaming' birds on 11th May at Cwmsyfiog, but the first visits to nest sites were observed on 1st June in Newport and Cwmfelinfach. One seen entering a roof-space in Monmouth on 9th June with occupied nests confirmed there later in the month. Two juveniles were flying with four adults on 13th July at Monmouth. Other nesting records were three pairs at Bedwas, three in Usk, up to six at St John's Church in Newport and one in Abergavenny; E. GLAMORGAN: Breeding was proven at Gilfach and Roath (Bargoed), Danescourt (Llandaff) (estimated 8-12 nests), and at Caerau, Maesteg, (8 pairs and 22 juvs). Possible breeding at Penygraig, Tonypany Railway Station, and Llwyncelyn; GOWER: Bred at Gorseinon, Briton Ferry, Giants' Grave, Neath, Crynant, Skewen, Little Warren (Afan Estate), central Port Talbot and Sandfields Estate; CEREDIGION: Breeding numbers appeared to be low again with none breeding at Aberarth, fewer than five pairs at Talybont and six pairs breeding at Cwm Ystwyth. The species seems to be declining fast as a breeding bird in the county; BRECON: Counts of breeding pairs came from Crickhowell Castle (7), Llangynidr (2), Pencelli (a total of 5-7 at two large houses), Pennorth chapel (2), Libanus (5-6), Sarnau (2), Wye Villa (Erwood) (2), Hay Road (Builth Wells) (1-2), Abergwesyn school (1-2), and Llanwrthwl (5+). 20–24 birds over Sennybridge and Defynnog on several dates in late May suggests reasonable breeding populations there. Breeding at Libanus appeared successful with 25 screaming around the chapel on 20th July; RADNOR: Town counts continue to decline; MONTGOMERY: At Middletown, the last known nest site in the village was re-roofed and no longer has Swifts; MEIRIONNYDD: Bred at Tanygrisiau; CAERNARFON: 10 at Craig-y-don, Llandudno, on 19th July had nests with young. There were at least 3 nests at Bethesda on 2nd June and a nest at Rachub on 25th June. One pair bred at Rhiwlas, with other pairs probably breeding here and 4 were nesting in the Waunfawr area on 10th July. Possible breeding at Bangor, Gerlan near Bethesda and at Capel Curig; ANGLESEY: One pair bred on the windmill at Cemaes; DENBIGH: The only report of nesting activity was at Penycae; FLINT: The only report of nesting activity was at Rhydymwyn.

Earliest and latest dates in each county were:

	Earliest	Site	Latest	Site
GWENT	25 th April	Newport WR	8 th Sept	Newport WR
E. GLAMORGAN	19 th April	3 locations	1 st Sept	Caerlan Farm & Llanilid
GOWER	18 th April	Cwm Ivy Tor	31 st Aug	Broughton Burrows
CARMARTHEN	5 th May	Pontiets & Llandeilo	24 th Aug	Burry Port
PEMBROKE	13 th April	Teifi Marshes	16 th Sept	Skomer
CEREDIGION	13 th April	Teifi Marshes	14 th Nov	Clarach
BRECON	25 th April	Llangasty	28 th Aug	Brecon Town
RADNOR	26 th April	Pont ar Elan	4 th Sept	Llanelwedd
MONTGOMERY	20 th April	Dolydd Hafren	26 th Aug	Meifod
MEIRIONNYDD	6 th May	Llyn Tanygrisiau	28 th Aug	Llyn Trawsfynydd
CAERNARFON	18 th April	Ysbyty Ifan	11 th Sept	Bardsey
ANGLESEY	30 th April	Llyn Maelog	26 th Aug	Silver Bay
DENBIGH	18 th April	Ysbyty Ifan	31 st Aug	RSPB Conwy
FLINT	5 th May	Gronant	29 th Aug	Rhuddlan

There was an unconfirmed report of one at Porthcawl E. GLAMORGAN on 16th Nov.

Large counts (40+) were: GWENT: 141 at Goldcliff Lagoons on 30th May. There were also significant groups inland, including 60 at Ynysyfro Reservoirs on 11th May and 50 over Castle Meadows, Abergavenny, on 25th May. Post-breeding, 57 at Peterstone Wentlooge on 8th July; E. GLAMORGAN: 50 at Cardiff Bay on 2nd May, then 47 at Cardiff Riding School on 4th May, 100 at Cardiff Bay on 7th May, 350 there on the 8th and 400 on 11th May. Elsewhere numbers were lower, max 60+ at Kenfig Pool on 10th May; GOWER: Generally very low numbers recorded, but 50 at Swansea Vale on 9th May, 200 at Llanrhidian on 11th, c.750 over Briton Ferry on 29th June, 55 at Gorseinon on 1st July and 40 at Cimla on 25th; BRECON: 60 at Llangorse Lake on 2nd, 200 there on 10th and 70 over the Usk at Llangynidr bridge on the same date. On autumn passage, 200 flew south over Bronllys on 26th July; MONTGOMERY: 50 at Dolydd Hafren on 11th May; MEIRIONNYDD: 50 at the northern end of Llyn Tegid on 15th July; ANGLESEY: 43 over Llyn Maelog on 22nd June; DENBIGH: The highest counts of 100+ were at RSPB Conwy on 9th May and at Nant-y-Glyn (above Colwyn Bay) on 26th June. Another notable count was 60 near Chirk on 19th July; FLINT: 65 at Bagillt on 4th July.

HOOPOE *Upupa epops*

COPOG

(A) *An uncommon but regular passage migrant to Wales.*

This was not a particularly good year for this species. GOWER: A bird photographed at Beaufort Avenue, Llangland, on 29th April; PEMBROKE: Single on Ramsey on 23rd April; RADNOR: One at David's Well on 6th May; MONTGOMERY: The first since 2012 was seen and heard calling at Mochdre from 11th to 13th May; CAERNARFON: One was on Bardsey from 28th Sept to 2nd Oct.

Three were seen passing over St. David's Head PEMBROKE on 17th May.

KINGFISHER *Alcedo atthis*

GLAS Y DORLAN

(C) Resident in lowland areas. Wales – Amber listed.

In the absence of systematic surveys of this species, population trends for Wales are unclear. GWENT: Recorded at c.40 widespread sites. An occupied nest was found at Llangua on 16th June while, near Osbaston, two young fledged from a nest at the end of June and a recently fledged bird was seen in early July. In June a juvenile was caught and ringed on the River Trothy and two young males near Kentchurch. Three birds, probably a family group, were seen at Castle Meadows, Abergavenny on 14th Aug; E. GLAMORGAN: No breeding reports but birds in suitable habitat at many locations during the breeding season. Outside the breeding season, reports were numerous and widespread, with the highest count 4 during a WeBS count at Cardiff Bay on 11th Sept; GOWER: Bred on the R Tawe near Tircanol and at Staffal Haegr, probably bred at Neath Abbey. Outside the breeding season 1 – 2 birds reported from 50 localities. There were 3 at Oxwich on 9th Aug and 7 different individuals were trapped and ringed here during the year; CARMARTHEN: A pair fledged 3 young at Penclacwydd and there were breeding season records along the Tywi. Outside the breeding season there were regular sightings at another 7 sites; PEMBROKE: In the breeding season noted at Llanychaer where they nested but no young were seen, Blackpool Mill, Treffgarne, Carew Cheriton and Teifi Marshes. Single on Skomer on 3rd Sept and up to 3 on the Cleddau est in Dec; CEREDIGION: Breeding season records came from Ynys-hir, Cwm Rheidol res. and the Ystwyth near Trawsgoed. Seen more widely in autumn/winter on the larger rivers (Teifi, Dyfi etc.) with occasional records from the coast; BRECON: Breeding season reports were sparse, although 6-7 territories along the River Usk between Brecon Promenade and Llansantffraed Bridge suggests a return to former densities. Birds were also present in the breeding season along the Tarell, on the Caerfanell above Talybont village, and on the Wye at The Warren. Two juveniles were seen by the Wye at Ffordd Fawr. Present in both winter periods along the Wye and the Usk, Llangorse and elsewhere. Records from upland reservoirs are scarce, so singles by Cantref Reservoir on 20th April, and on many dates between late June and mid-October at Talybont Reservoir are of interest; MONTGOMERY: Twice as many sightings as in 2013. Whilst water levels were probably a bit high for a perfect breeding season, Kingfisher probably did well. Widespread records were received, with many from along the River Severn and its tributaries; MEIRIONNYDD: A pair bred on the Dwyrdd at Pont Felin Rhyd, Maentwrog, fledging at least 3 chicks. There was a possible family party at another site on the Dwyrdd, and possible territories on Afon Glaslyn at Pont Croesor and around the northern end of Llyn Tegid. Widespread records outside the breeding season; CAERNARFON: No records of confirmed breeding, but birds were present in the breeding season at Ystumlllyn, at two sites along Afon Glaslyn and in Nant Ffrancon. Outside the breeding season, 1-2 birds were recorded at another 12 sites, including one on Bardsey on 19th July; ANGLESEY: No confirmed breeding records, but

birds were seen on Afon Cefni at two sites near Llangefni in June. 1-2 birds at another 14 sites outside the breeding season; DENBIGH: Singles in the breeding season (April-July) along the River Dee near Trevor Uchaf and Holt, on the Afon Clwyd at Lleweni Hall and on the Afon Alwen at Llanfihangel GM. On the Afon Tanat, 5 were trapped and ringed during July-Aug and there was a possible pair at St Asaph on 17th July. Outside the breeding season, 85 records from RSPB Conwy; FLINT: There were singles in the breeding season (April-July) along the River Alyn at Rhydymwyn, Mold and Caergwrle, as well as at Shotton Steelworks. Outside the breeding season, there were 60 records from Connah's Quay NR /RSPB Oakenholt.

WRYNECK *Jynx torquilla*

PENGAM

(A) An uncommon but regular passage migrant, chiefly to coastal counties in autumn.

GWENT: One around gardens in Penallt between 13th and 16th Sept; PEMBROKE: The only spring record came from St. Bride's on 11th - 14th March. Autumn records were singles on Skomer on 3rd - 6th and 13th - 18th Sept, involving two different birds, and 13th - 16th Oct, at Pencarnan Camp on 6th Sept, St. David's Head on 19th Sept, Ramsey on 21st and 26th Sept (thought to have been different birds), on Skokholm 6th - 16th Sept, 13th and 22nd Oct and 2nd and 12th Nov; CEREDIGION: One at Pen Dinas, Aberystwyth on 22nd Sept; CAERNARFON: Bardsey recorded a number of birds in September, starting with two on 4th Sept. Birds were then recorded regularly here until the 15th. It is thought that a total of 10, or possibly 11, birds were involved. The only mainland record was one at Porth Felen, Aberdaron, on 21st Sept.

GREEN WOODPECKER *Picus viridis*

CNOCELL WERDD

(C) Once a common breeding resident throughout lowland Wales except on Anglesey. It now appears to be doing well in some eastern and southern counties but scarcer in most western counties. Wales – Amber listed.

BBS figures show a 35% decline in Wales between 1995 and 2013. In recent years there have been substantial declines in most western counties except Caernarfonshire, but further east, the population appears to be stable. GWENT: Fewer reports than last year, but present across the county and throughout the year. Most reports were of singles, though several counts of three or four came from the lower Monnow Valley. Breeding was reported at Whitson Court, Goldcliff and Chepstow, three birds fledged at Osbaston, an adult and two juveniles were seen at Goldcliff and two juveniles at Brynmawr. Successful breeding was also confirmed at Penallt, Llangybi and Uskmouth; E. GLAMORGAN: Records from 137 locations, but surprisingly few confirmed breeding reports. Bred at Caerlan Farm (Penrhiwfer), Candleston, Parc Penallta and Parc Slip NR, and juvs were recorded at Maesteg and R. Ely valley, with possible breeding at two other sites. Outside the breeding season, max counts were 6 at Llanilid on 7th Aug and 7 there on 12th Sept. Overall the reports came from right across the recording area, but with a southerly bias; GOWER: Bred at Mewslade Valley and Jersey Park/ Briton Ferry, probably

bred at Briton Ferry Woods, Crymlyn Bog and Pant y Sais. 1-2 recorded at 39 localities, max 3 at Craig yr Aber on 4th April and 4 at Mewslade Valley on 8th July; CARMARTHEN: Recorded at 18 sites; PEMBROKE: Just three records received, of singles at Pencarnan Camp on 3rd Sept, at St. David's Head on 25th Sept and at Llandilo on 28th Nov; CEREDIGION: A better year with records from 9 sites, all of single birds. Breeding season records came from Coed Dolgoed, Ciliau Aeron, Llanarth, Llandysul, lower Doethie valley, the Teifi near Tregaron and Ynys-hir; BRECON: 74 records from 53 sites indicates a continued wide distribution at all seasons. Most records related to calling birds. Breeding was confirmed at Penrhos (Llanwrthwl) and at Tylegarw (Senni), juveniles were heard in July at Tarren yr Escob, Gaer Fawr (Castell Madoc) and Mynydd Illtyd and family parties seen at Craig Cerrig Gleisaid and near Defynnog; MONTGOMERY: Breeding was recorded from Lake Vyrnwy, Llanfyllin, Llanymynech and Roundton Hill. Birds were recorded at around 34 sites in all, the majority in the NE of the county; MEIRIONNYDD: Records from 7 sites, including breeding season records at 3 sites, but no confirmed breeding; CAERNARFON: The species seems to be doing better here than in other western counties, with birds recorded at 29 sites, including confirmed breeding at Gyffin, Conwy. The largest number of records came from the area around Tregarth, Bethesda and Nant Ffrancon, where there were an estimated 3-4 pairs in the area between Moelyci and the lower end of Nant Ffrancon, with agitated adults noted at two sites here in the breeding season, suggesting that young were fledged; ANGLESEY: The only records came from Mynydd Bodafon, where there was one yaffling on 17th and 25th March and one seen on 2nd May; DENBIGH: 54 records from 30 1km squares. There is an interesting concentration of records along the Dee at both Llangollen and N of Wrexham. The highest count of 3 near Trevor Uchaf on 5th Aug included 2 juveniles, the only evidence of successful breeding; FLINT: 26 records from 16 1km squares, with a concentration along the Wheeler valley between Mold and Denbigh (DENBIGH). No direct evidence of breeding, though 2 were seen at Llanfynydd in the Cegidog valley on 1st April.

GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER *Dendrocopos major* CNOCELL FRAITH FWYAF
(D) *A common breeding resident in wooded parts of Wales but scarcer on Anglesey and the Llŷn peninsula.*

BBS results show a 179% increase in Wales between 1995 and 2013, the largest increase for any species. PEMBROKE: Three on Ramsey on 16th Nov and singles on Skomer on 18th and 23rd Nov; CAERNARFON: Bardsey recorded singles on 11th March, 23rd July and 9th Aug, with two here on 29th Oct, one remaining until 1st Nov.

LESSER SPOTTED WOODPECKER *Dendrocopos minor* CNOCELL FRAITH LEIAF
(B) *A scarce and local breeding resident, principally distributed in the lowlands and along the main river valleys. Wales - Red listed.*

This species has become very scarce almost everywhere in Wales, with just a few sightings from most counties. GWENT: The decline apparently continues apace, with only

one sighting, at The Hendre on 20th Jan; E. GLAMORGAN: Singles at Coed Cefn-fforest on 13th Jan, Pant-yr-Awel on 24th Jan and 5th March, Fforestganol on 20th March, Cwm Nant Gwyn, Maesteg, on 18th April, Lisvane Res on 16th Aug, Garwnant on 31st Oct, Llanharry on 14th Nov and Pant-yr-Awel on 15th Nov, with 2 at Forest Farm on 21st Dec; CARMARTHEN: There were breeding season records from Dinefwr Park and Pentre-felin. There were also records from Cilsan Bridge and Llandyfan Church; PEMBROKE: Two records received of singles at Sam's Wood on 13th Jan and at Picton Castle on 9th April; CEREDIGION: Two pairs present at Ynys-hir again this year. Elsewhere the only records were of two at Aberystwyth University campus on 6th March, one on a feeder at Llandre in April, a male at Allt-y Crib, Talybont, on 22nd April and one at Furnace on 6th Sept; BRECON: A male in wet woodland by the lake at Llangasty on 27th March and a male heard on two dates in April in the Glanusk/Abercynrig area. A female was photographed near the Brecon by-pass bridge on 12th Oct; RADNOR: Reported from 8 sites; MONTGOMERY: Records came from Dolydd Hafren (30th March & 29th April), Upper Dyfi Estuary on 15th Dec and Trewern on 20th Dec; MEIRIONNYDD: Singles at Pont Croesor on 4th March and Coed Lletywalter on 21st Aug; FLINT: Only one record of a female near Rhydymwyn on 29th Oct.

KESTREL *Falco tinnunculus*

CUDYLL COCH

(C) Rather scarce breeding resident throughout Wales. Partial and passage migrant in small numbers to some counties. Wales – Red listed.

The 2007-11 BTO Atlas shows extensive losses of breeding birds in south-west and mid Wales since the 1988-91 Atlas. Incomplete breeding information includes: GWENT: The steady decline in the number of records continues, with 136 this year compared to 172 in 2013, 197 in 2012, and 249 in 2011. Two pairs bred in Blaenau Gwent, rearing five chicks, but a clutch of six could not be followed up, while a nest at Gobion had five eggs; E. GLAMORGAN: Bred at one site, possibly at one other; GOWER: 86 sightings, suggesting a recovery. Bred at two sites and present at a further 10 suitable sites during the breeding season; CARMARTHEN: Reported in the breeding season at two sites; PEMBROKE Reported at 24 sites during the breeding season; CEREDIGION Confirmed breeding at 3 sites; BRECON: 7 traditional breeding sites occupied, and at least 3 pairs fledged young; RADNOR: At least 12 pairs bred and a very good breeding season at some sites with one brood of 6 successfully raised due to an abundance of Short-tailed Voles; MEIRIONNYDD: Confirmed or probable breeding at 7 sites and recorded in the breeding season at another 14 sites. Thought to have had a good breeding season in the Bala to Llan Ffestiniog area; CAERNARFON: Reported at 9 sites and possibly a further 4; ANGLESEY: 3+ breeding pairs located; DENBIGH: Two confirmed breeding pairs; FLINT: At least one pair bred.

MERLIN *Falco columbarius*

CUDYLL BACH

(B) Scarce breeding resident, passage migrant and winter visitor. Wales – Amber listed.

Published records do not give a clear picture of trends for this species in Wales. Breeding records included: BRECON: At least three pairs, plus an additional site in the north; RADNOR: Found in the breeding season at 6 sites; MONTGOMERY: No evidence of breeding; MEIRIONNYDD: Totals for known nests in Meirionnydd: 21 eggs, 12 hatched and 12 fledged. A large area suitable for this species not checked this year, though several breeding season records suggested the presence of pairs. A pair in an area of moorland near Bala failed due to Fox predation, probably the same Fox that predated a Short-eared Owl nest; CAERNARFON: Present at 4 sites; DENBIGH: Birds reported in potential breeding habitat.

A summary of non-breeding records:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
GWENT	3	3	1	1			1		1	2	6	3
E. GLAMORGAN	3	4	4	1	1			1	2	6+	5	1
GOWER	1	2	5	3				1		8	8	2
PEMBROKE	3	2	10	8					3	13	10	3
CEREDIGION	4	2	3							5	2	
BRECON										3	1	2
MEIRIONNYDD	1										1	
CAERNARFON	7	2	3	6	3	2	2	5	3	5	6	5
ANGLESEY	3		3	2						5	2	1
DENBIGH	1+	1+		2+	1+	1+	1+	1+	1+			1+
FLINT	1	1	1					1		1	2	2

HOBBY *Falco subbuteo*

HEBOG YR EHEDYDD

(B) Scarce breeding summer visitor in at least four counties with a total breeding population of approximately 30 pairs. Elsewhere a rare passage migrant, although a few summer on occasion. Wales – Amber listed.

The species breeds mainly in eastern parts of Wales, but may be slowly expanding its range westward and northward. Breeding information as follows: GWENT: A pair reared two young near Chepstow. The pair in the Usk valley, first seen displaying on 23rd April, had three eggs on 18th June and adults were taking in food on 29th June; E. GLAMORGAN: One pair bred successfully fledging 3 young; GOWER: Present in the breeding season at one site; CARMARTHEN: No confirmed breeding records but birds regularly seen in suitable habitat; BRECON: Possible breeding noted at 10 locations, probable at one more, with four pairs confirmed breeding. Hirundines were preyed upon early and late in the breeding season, with a House Martin taken within hours of its return to a colony at Aberyail Farm in early May, and a Swallow snatched off wires in Llangynidr village nearby in early September. Dragonflies and large day-flying moths were taken on several dates at Llangorse and in the Black Mountains respectively during June and July; RADNOR: At least seven pairs raised young. Last record 14th Sept; MONTGOMERY: Probably bred at one site; MEIRIONNYDD: A pair seen interacting on 2 occasions at a site in Penllyn Forest in the season.

Approximate monthly totals of non-breeding birds:

	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov
GWENT	2	16	10	3	3	13		
E. GLAMORGAN		4	1	2	2	4	2	
GOWER				2		2		
CARMARTHEN		1	1				1	
PEMBROKE			3	1		2	3	
CEREDIGION		1	5	3	3	1		
BRECON	1	4				1		
MEIRIONNYDD			2	1		1		
CAERNARFON			1				1*	
ANGLESEY				1		2		
DENBIGH	1	3	1+	1+	1+	1+		
FLINT		1		1	2	1		

* at Bardsey on 29th Oct, latest record for the island.

In MONTGOMERY, there were many more records than in 2013, and more records of this species than of Kestrel.

PEREGRINE *Falco peregrinus*

HEBOG TRAMOR

(C) Resident breeding species in all counties, increasing in recent years to a breeding population of more than 300 pairs.

Final results for the National Peregrine survey in 2014 are not yet available, but a preliminary analysis of the results from several counties suggests that the species is not doing well in Wales, with a sharp reduction in the number of occupied sites. Breeding information as follows: GWENT: Just six breeding records including 'probable' records of breeding on a pylon near Newport and from near Pontypool. Confirmed breeding came from two sites west of Newport and two others in the western valleys. The only successful outcome known was of three or four young fledged from a clutch of five eggs at one of the latter sites; E. GLAMORGAN: 21 occupied territories in the south of the recording area were monitored and breeding occurred in 8 of these, producing a total of 18 fledged young. In at least 3 of the territories breeding was attempted but no fledged young resulted. At one location, 3 young were reported as stolen. Independent observers noted breeding at three sites which may or may not have been covered by the regular monitoring. Breeding was also confirmed on Flat Holm; GOWER: Bred at two sites, present at another 4; CARMARTHEN: The South Wales Peregrine Monitoring Group gathered information on 14 territories, of which 11 were occupied by a pair or single adult. A total of nine chicks were known to have fledged with a further two young seen at an eyrie in the north of the county in mid-May but with unknown outcome; PEMBROKE: 40 occupied territories (cf 39 in 2013) but overall breeding success apparently quite poor. A minimum of 27 young fledging from 26 nest-sites (cf *43 young fledging from *26 sites in 2013). Based on the number of occupied territories, the Peregrine population in PEMBROKE was about 12% lower than that recorded during the previous national survey year. In 2002, 46 territories were found to be occupied, and in that year 35

pairs reared a minimum of 47 young. This decline is mainly due to a sharp drop in the confirmed occupancy of inland sites, into which the population had been expanding during the last decade. Reasons are not known, but local food availability and weather conditions are assumed to be important factors; BRECON: 11 nest-sites were occupied by pairs, and another four by single adults. Seven pairs successfully fledged twelve chicks; MONTGOMERY: 19 territories, in of which 16 pairs bred, although it is thought that only 50% were successful. Those that failed apparently failed at the chick stage, suggesting food shortage; MEIRIONNYDD: 37 sites were checked. Outcomes are 17 nests not occupied this year. 2 nests failed, 4 nests possibly bred and 4 nests probably bred but outcome unknown. Another 7 nests fledged 10+ chicks; CAERNARFON: Only around 7 sites known to have held young and another 5 possibly holding young. On Bardsey, both pairs fledged two young. At least four mainland pairs, two coastal and two in the mountains, were recorded to have fledged young. Alarmingly there were two instances of deliberate poisoning in the county. Four birds, an adult and three well-grown young, were found dead at a nest in a quarry in Dyffryn Nantlle, where it was not possible to recover the bodies for tests. At another site on the north coast an adult female was found dead in May, with tests showing rodenticide poisoning; ANGLESEY: At least two breeding pairs. At Cemlyn, some evidence of predation of gulls and terns; DENBIGH: No breeding reports; FLINT: Two possible breeding attempts. At Connah's Quay NR, 4 birds were found dead, thought to be two adults and two fledged young which had used the nest box on the adjacent power station. The corpses were too long-dead for analysis for poisons.

RING-NECKED PARAKEET *Psittacula krameri*

PARACIT TORCHOG

(A) Feral population now well-established in parts of southern England and spreading northwards, but not yet established in Wales.

Still few records published for Wales, but is this species being ignored by birdwatchers in some areas? PEMBROKE: One at Hook, 17th - 18th Nov, MONTGOMERY: 3 flew over Llansantffraid-ym-Mechain on 23rd Aug; ANGLESEY: A female visited gardens at Benllech on 30th Nov; DENBIGH: Singles were seen in the Gwersyllt/Moss Valley area of Wrexham on 22nd June and 9th July, probably the same bird; FLINT: A female was seen on a garden bird feeder near the Old London Road cemetery in Flint on 8th and 16th Nov.

GOLDEN ORIOLE *Oriolus oriolus*

EURYN

(A) A scarce summer visitor, recorded in all counties and particularly in Pembroke. Most of the records fall in May and June as is to be expected with a species overshooting its continental breeding areas. On WRP list.

GWENT: A male in the copse towards the eastern end of NWR Uskmouth on 27th May was the first county record since 2004; PEMBROKE: A male at St. David's Head on 25th May; CAERNARFON: A female or immature bird on Bardsey on 19th May and an immature on 26th May; ANGLESEY: A female or immature bird at Cemlyn on 5th May.

RED-BACKED SHRIKE *Lanius collurio*

CIGYDD CEFNGOCH

(A) A scarce passage migrant in spring and autumn chiefly to coastal areas, formerly a widespread breeding species in small numbers. On WRP list.

The only records were from PEMBROKE, where there was a female on Skomer on 8th June and an immature bird at Porthselau, St. David's Head, on 30th Sept - 2nd Oct.

GREAT GREY SHRIKE *Lanius excubitor*

CIGYDD MAWR

(A) A scarce but annual winter visitor, occasionally recorded on passage.

GWENT: The Twmbarlwm and Wentwood birds from 2013 were both seen during the first winter period. The Twmbarlwm bird also returned in the autumn of 2014 for another winter; E. GLAMORGAN: The bird from late 2013 remained at Garwnant and was reported on 4th Feb. One from 31st Oct to 1st Nov at Garwnant was assumed to be the same bird returning to the area; GOWER: Singles at Mynydd Marchywel on 14th and 16th Nov, at Cwm yr Argoed on 15th Dec and at Pen Disgwylfa on 20th Dec; CARMARTHEN: A good year for this species with 4 individuals seen. Two were caught and ringed at Figyn Common, Brechfa Forest on 14th Nov and there were singles at Cnw-c-y-llwyn, Brechfa on 15th and at Usk Res. on 5th and 7th Dec. These were the first records since 2011; CEREDIGION: One at Cross Inn forest from 16th Feb to 13th April. Presumably the same bird returned here from 30th Oct to the end of the year. One was at Frongoch Farm, Aberystwyth from 31st Oct to 4th Nov; BRECON: Early-year reports from regular sites. One at the west end of Mynydd Illtyd on 17th Jan, and what is believed to be the same bird at Craig-y-fro, Beacons and at Craig Cerrig Gleisiad on 4th and 16th March respectively. The Lower Neuadd Reservoir area held one on 19th and 24th Jan and one was near Llangasty Church on 19th Feb. In the second winter, possibly the same individual returned to Lower Neuadd Reservoir from 31st Oct until 4th Dec. One was close to the Glamorgan border at Gorsllwyn on 23rd Nov, the Carmarthenshire border at Usk Reservoir on 7th Dec, and one at Y Gors on 30th; RADNOR: Singles at Aberedw Hill in January, Llanbedr Hill in Nov-Dec, Ednol Hill in Nov-Dec and Old Radnor in Nov; MONTGOMERY: One at Lake Vyrnwy on 11th and 13th March and 9th April; MEIRIONNYDD: One in a regenerating area of conifer on the lower slope of Brottos, Llyn Celyn on 24th - 25th March, one in a hedgerow at Llangower Church, Llyn Tegid on 3rd Nov and one at Glyndyfrdwy on 12th Nov; CAERNARFON: One near Llyn Eigiau on 14th Nov; ANGLESEY: One at Llanfechell, near Cemaes, on 31st Nov; DENBIGH: One spent the winter on Ruabon Mountain between 2nd Feb and 11th April. In the later part of the year, 2 birds at Craig Bron Bannog on 5th Nov with one chased by a Kestrel here on 18th Nov. The third record at Clocaenog Forest was on 13th Dec, but there were also singles at Ceiriog Forest on 12th Nov and at Llantysilio Mountain on 3rd Dec.

WOODCHAT SHRIKE *Lanius senator*

CIGYDD PENGGOCH

(A) A scarce vagrant, on WRP list.

E. GLAMORGAN: An male at Gileston on 28th - 29th April; PEMBROKE: A male at Treginnis, St. David's, on 20th - 21st April and a female at Deer Park, Martin's Haven, on

12th - 13th June; MEIRIONNYDD: A male at Pennal, Dyfi estuary, on 17th May was only the third county record and the first since 1986.

CHOUGH *Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*

BRAN GOESGOCH

(C) A resident in small numbers, mainly on cliff coasts of the western seaboard. Wales – Amber listed.

Though the Welsh breeding population has been doing quite well over the past 20 years, there have recently been apparent declines in some inland areas, possibly linked to a reduction in grazing. E. GLAMORGAN: The pair on the Heritage Coast were seen on several occasions with two juvs. Max count 9 on 20th June; GOWER: Small numbers at 39 localities, including 2 juvs at Butterslade on 30th July. The highest counts were 18 at the west end of Mewslade on 27th Sept, 20 at Rhossili on 28th, 23 there on 4th Oct and 20 there again on 10th with 25 at Mewslade Bay on 28th Oct. A remarkable record of a bird next to Harbour Way in Port Talbot on 26th June, apparently having been forced off course by atrocious weather conditions; CARMARTHEN: There were 4 at Telpyn Point on 22nd Oct; PEMBROKE: Breeding details as follows:

Pairs occupying territories	Pairs attempting to breed	Nests thought to have	Nests thought to have	Nests from which young fledged	Min. young fledged per site
67	61	51	46	40	113
Mean no. young fledged per confirmed successful nest/pair				2.83	
Mean no. young fledged per confirmed territory-holding pair				1.69	

There was a minimum of 50, and a maximum of 71 non-breeding birds in the population this spring, with up to 22 on Ramsey Island during April and early May. High counts were 33 at Abermawr on 2nd Sept and 23 at Strumble Head on 19th Sept. Post-breeding counts at 7 communal roosts produced a minimum total of 133 roosting birds (range 6 to 37 birds).

Breeding details for other vice-counties by the Cross & Stratford Welsh Chough Project:

	ANGLE	CAERN	DENBIGH	MEIRION	MONTM	CERED
Total Nests	40 - 41	87 - 91	2	18 - 19	0	27 - 29
Total Broods ringed	22	41	1	5	0	14
Total Young ringed	70	118	3	18	0	41
Mean no Young/ brood ringed	3.2	2.9*	3.0	3.6	N/A	2.9
*Mean brood sizes calculated from full brood size where incomplete brood ringed. Number of Nests: Range (Min = Confirmed + Probable) - (Max = Conf, Prob + Possible).						

Other records for these counties include: CEREDIGION: Max 18 at Mwnt on 22nd March and 16 on 4th April; MONTGOMERY: 2 at Cors Dyfi on 22nd June; MEIRIONNYDD: Max counts 18 at Tonfanau on 16th April with 40 here on 2nd and 18th Oct; CAERNARFON: 50 at Carreg Fawr, Llanfairfechan, on 16th July and 34 at Nant y Coed here on 18th July. 42+ at

Aber Mountain gate on 28th July and 53-55 there the next day. Mynydd Mawr, Uwchmynydd, hosted 25 on 16th April and 24 on 23rd Sept, with 31 at Trwyn Bychestyn on 18th May and 37 at Parwyd, Pen-y-cil, on 17th May; ANGLESEY: 23 at South Stack on 18th Feb and 18 at Carmel Head on 15th June; DENBIGH: Max 9 at RSPB Conwy on 30th Dec.

MAGPIE *Pica pica*

PIODEN

(D) An abundant and widespread resident; numbers still increasing.

BBS results show a 16% decline in Wales between 1995 and 2013, though there was a 26% increase between 2013 and 2014. Flocks of 30 or more were: GWENT: 30 emerging from a roost at Uskmouth on 11th Jan; E. GLAMORGAN: 50 at Island Farm on 2nd Jan, max 42 at Hendre Lake during Jan with max 41 here in Feb, 30 at Cosmeston CP on 7th Feb, max 32 at Cardiff Bay in March; GOWER: 36 at Mumbles Cricket Ground on 4th Feb and 32 at Clase/ near cemetery on 1st Oct; MONTGOMERY: 40 at Dolydd Hafren on 14th Dec and 37 at Pwll Penarth on 2nd Nov; DENBIGH: 33 seen at Holt on 7th Jan.

JAY *Garrulus glandarius*

SGRECH Y COED

(D) Widespread resident, common in most deciduous woodland areas, least so in western coastal fringes; scarce in west Llyn and absent from large parts of Anglesey. Autumn / winter influxes from the east occur irregularly.

The Jay has done well in Wales in recent years, with BBS results showing a 41% increase between 1995 and 2013. Large counts (10+) were: GWENT: 30 at Peterstone on 28th Sept and 20 at Saltmarsh Lane on 5th Oct were birds moving through on passage; E. GLAMORGAN: In Sept, there were 14 over Kenfig NNR and 17 over Lavernock Pt on 20th, 20 over Forest Farm on 21st and 12 at Dunraven on 27th. There were 10 at Lavernock Pt on 8th Oct; GOWER: 26 at Margam railway sidings on 7th Oct and 12 at Mumbles Hill on 11th Oct; PEMBROKE: Maximum counts were 16 at Llanychaer on 14th Sept and 11 at Llanwnda on 2nd Oct; BRECON: 23 presumed migrants at Cwm Greig-ddu, Garth, on 23rd Sept; MONTGOMERY: Minimum of 30+ at Llyn Coed y Dinas on 24th Sept; MEIRIONNYDD: 11 at Tal y Llyn Pass on 21st Sept were possible migrants as were 23 at Dyfi Bridge on 28th Sept; CAERNARFON: Up to 10 birds eating acorns around Hafod Lane, Bangor, in autumn; DENBIGH: The highest count was 14 at Penycae on 29th Sept; FLINT: 13 were seen on 4th Jan at Halkyn.

JACKDAW *Corvus monedula*

JAC-Y-DO

(C) An abundant and widespread resident. Increasing.

BBS results suggest a small increase in Wales since 1995, but this is not statistically significant. Counts of 400 or more were: GWENT: Flocks reported were considerably smaller than in 2013, though 450 flew to roost over Mynyddislwyn on New Year's Day and

on 7th Aug, 400 went to roost at Bedwas, an occurrence that was to be repeated throughout the autumn. 1,000 flew over Rogerstone on 17th Nov and 400 were at Peterstone Wentlooge on 6th Dec; E. GLAMORGAN: c.650 at Pontcanna during the breeding season. Other notable counts 600 over Bridgend on 6th and 8th Jan, 1,200 over Pant-yr-Awel on 25th Jan, 500 there on 6th Feb and a total during the day of 895 on 12th Feb. 2,000+ at Rhaslas Pond on 16th Feb and 600+ at Newcastle Hill, Bridgend, on 4th March. In Oct to Dec, max 500 at Caerlan Farm in Oct and Nov, 526 at Ogmores Est on 26th Oct, 429 at Kenfig NNR on 27th Oct, 400 at Cosmeston CP on 6th Nov, 1,002 over Pant-yr-Awel on 7th Nov, max 400 at Bargoed in Nov, max 600 at Caerlan Farm in Dec, 500+ at Newcastle Hill, Bridgend, on 2nd Dec and 1,600 over Pant-yr-Awel on 8th Dec; GOWER: Regular large pre-roost flocks recorded during both winter periods over The Quays/ Briton Ferry of 1,200-1,500 birds, with c.500 regularly over Port Talbot during Oct - Dec and 400 at Cwm Ivy Marsh on 12th Aug; CARMARTHEN: Notable counts were c.400 at Dryslwyn on 9th Sept, 750 at Penclacwydd on 15th Nov, c.400 at Llangennech on 27th and 1,100 at Penclacwydd on 18th Dec; CEREDIGION: 500 at the Teifi est on 23rd Jan; BRECON: 500 at Bronllys on 12th July and 400 at Ffordd Fawr on 31st Oct; RADNOR: 2,000 at Llanfihangel on 28th Jan; CAERNARFON: The largest numbers flying to roost over Cyttir Lane, Bangor, were in Oct-Nov, with 780 on 19th Oct, 1,300 on 23rd Oct, 1,520 in half an hour on 25th Oct and 460 on 21st Dec. Large numbers also recorded at St Agnes Road, Conwy, with 300-400 on 2nd Oct. Large movements on Bardsey included 492 on 5th Nov; DENBIGH: Minimum of 800 at Bodfari on 19th Jan.

Individuals showing characteristics of the Nordic form, *C. m. monedula*, in PEMBROKE were singles at Nine Wells on 1st Jan, at Sealyham in mid-Feb and on Skomer on 3rd April and 15th Nov. However, the Welsh Records Panel is not certain whether these records relate to genuine Scandinavian birds or whether their plumage characteristics are within normal variation for British Jackdaws. The panel requests as many photographed records as possible to shed light on this.

ROOK *Corvus frugilegus*

YDFRAN

(C) A plentiful and widespread resident, breeding mainly below 305m above sea level.

BBS results suggest a decline in numbers in Wales since 1995, but the sample is too small to give a statistically significant result. Counts of the number of nests at rookeries give the best indication of population trends, but only a few counties do this systematically. Rookeries and large counts (100+): GWENT: Rookeries were poorly recorded compared even with 2013, with a total of 130 nests recorded at 5 rookeries. In the first winter period, 300 were at Raglan on 5th Jan and 100 at Began on 13th March. At the end of the year, over 100 at Whitebrook on 6th Dec and in Nedern wetland on 12th Dec; E. GLAMORGAN: Breeding confirmed at 10 rookeries, max 43+ nests at Colwinston. 100+ at Ty'n-y-Caeau Farm on 16th Jan and 100+ at Southerndown on 26th Dec; GOWER: A total of 614 nests recorded in 33 rookeries, compared to 632 nests in 2013, max 77 nests at Lagadranta Farm; CARMARTHEN: A total of 124 nests at 4 rookeries, the biggest at Red Roses with 60 nests; PEMBROKE: 122 rookeries, with a total of 3,657 occupied nests, the largest 178 at Dale Village; BRECON: 69 - 74 nests in 7 rookeries. Several formerly large rookeries

showed significant declines, probably because of shooting, though Goshawk predation apparently caused the collapse of one colony. Post-breeding, 100 were around Belfort Farm on 4th May and 120 below Pen-y-fan on 25th June; MONTGOMERY: The largest flocks were 150 at Llanerfyl on 6th July and 100 at Pontrobert on 26th Aug; MEIRIONNYDD: The only rookery count received was 20+ nests at Portmeirion main gate on 2nd April; CAERNARFON: 7 rookeries reported, max c. 19 nests at Felinheli; ANGLESEY: 100 at Cemlyn on 3rd June and 145 here on 19th Oct; FLINT: 209 at Gellifor on 30th Jan.

CARRION CROW *Corvus corone*

BRAN DYDDYN

(D) An abundant resident and partial migrant throughout Wales. Often regarded as the principal avian pest species in rural areas.

The population in Wales appears to be stable. Counts of 100 or more and breeding records on the islands were: E. GLAMORGAN: 200 at Ogmore-by-Sea on 13th Jan, 100+ at Rhaslas Pond on 16th Feb; GOWER: 101 at Whiteford NNR on 24th June, 160 at Dalton's Pt on 10th Aug, and at Blackpill a max of 120 in June, 110 in July and 101 in Aug; PEMBROKE: 100 at Newport on 28th Oct. Five pairs bred on Ramsey and 8 pairs on Skokholm; BRECON: 100 at Ffordd Fawr on 9th Sept; MONTGOMERY: 117 at Lake Vyrnwy on 4th April and 100 at Dolydd Hafren on 28th Sept; CAERNARFON: The largest numbers recorded were on Bardsey with 142 on 12th Oct and 110 on 5th Nov. At least 7 pairs bred on the island, with 3 other probable nesting attempts, and 15 young were fledged; ANGLESEY: Two pairs on the Skerries, but only one nest found.

HOODED CROW *Corvus cornix*

BRAN LWYD

(A) An irregular wanderer to Wales, mainly in winter and most frequent to coastal areas. Wales – Amber listed.

E. GLAMORGAN: One was in the fields at Sker on 29th - 30th April, and one was at Pant-yr-Awel on 29th April; PEMBROKE: Single birds on Skomer between 24th April and 14th May, Pencarnan on 1st - 2nd May, then two at Martins Haven on 7th May with a single bird there on 9th and another on Ramsey on 16th May. Probably only two birds involved in these sightings; CAERNARFON: One on Bardsey for most of the spring until early June, joined by a second on 23rd April with a max of 3 on 21st May and 15th June. In the autumn, one here from 31st Aug to the end of the year, with 2 on 29th Oct. One at Caerhun between 8th Jan and 9th March, one at Aberdaron on 16th May and 5th July and another at the Great Orme on 25th May; ANGLESEY: Singles at Holyhead and the South Stack approach on 15th May, 2 on 19th May, one on 27th and one on 13th - 18th Aug, one at Hen Borth on 4th, 10th, 22nd and 25th Feb. Singles at Pentraeth on 23rd April, at Llyn Traffwll on 27th April, at Cemlyn on 25th Jan and 30th Nov and on Rhosneigr Beach on 9th April.

RAVEN *Corvus corax***CIGFRAN**

(C) Resident: distributed throughout the whole of Wales. Numbers are very high in many of the uplands and coastal-cliff areas.

The breeding population is probably still increasing in many areas of Wales. GWENT: Counts were low in the first winter period, the maximum being 15 at Newport Wetlands on 18th Feb. Breeding was confirmed at 7 sites, with at least four pairs fledging young. A count of 17 on Aril Mountain on 22nd June reflects the number of birds resident in the area; E. GLAMORGAN: Breeding was confirmed at 5 sites and probable at another three. 69 at Abernant on 14th Sept. Max. counts from the Blaencannaid roost were:

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
113	88	167	149	238	426	378	293	196	130	202	74

GOWER: Bred at 14 localities and probably bred at another two. Outside the breeding season, max 26 at Holy's Wash on 2nd Jan and 24 at Rhossili Down on 2nd Nov; CARMARTHEN: The best counts were from Mynydd Llanllwni with max 20 on 22nd Feb; PEMBROKE: Bred on all the islands including Grassholm. Max counts 40 on Skomer on 7th Sept and on Ramsey on several dates during the autumn; CEREDIGION: Max 21 at Cors Caron on 23rd Aug; BRECON: An incomplete survey revealed at least 40 occupied nest-sites in the south and west of the county. Max 34 on Cefn Llechid on 28th July; MONTGOMERY: Largest counts were 25 near Llyn Hir on 10th Dec and 20 at Dolfor on 14th Sept; MEIRIONNYDD: Records of confirmed or probable breeding from 22 sites. Max count 34 at Cadwst on 22nd Sept; CAERNARFON: For the fourth successive year, a pair bred on Bardsey, with two young fledged. Max 29+ at Cors Gwaun-y-gwail above Bethesda on 8th Sept and 20 at Porth Neigwl on 7th Nov; ANGLESEY: A pair nested on The Skerries. Max 35 between Cemlyn and Carmel on 10th March and an influx was noted along the coast at Cemlyn in July with 23 on 30th July; DENBIGH: The maximum count was 120 at Llyn Alwen, Mynydd Hiraethog on 22nd June; FLINT: Max 9 at Marian Cwm on 10th April.

GOLDCREST *Regulus regulus***DRYW EURBEN**

(C) An abundant resident, passage migrant and winter visitor. Wales – Amber listed.

BBS results show a 42% decline in Wales between 1995 and 2013. There was a 22% increase between 2013 and 2014 but this was not statistically significant. GWENT: Only 72 records of 1-5 birds, well down on the 158 records in 2013. No confirmed breeding records, although nest-building noted at one site; E. GLAMORGAN: Confirmed breeding at 4 sites, probable at another five and considered possible at a further 54 sites. Max count c.20 at Fairwater Park on 9th Nov; GOWER: Bred at 3 sites, probably bred at another three. Max 13 at Penllergaer Forest on 9th March; CARMARTHEN: Four pairs bred at Penclacwydd and there were 15 singing birds at Talley Woods on 26th May; CEREDIGION: 60 were ringed at Cross Inn forest on 17th Nov; BRECON: Singing males at 35 locations between Feb and June; MONTGOMERY: A minimum of 100 in the Hafren Forest on 9th Nov; MEIRIONNYDD: Breeding season records from 27 sites; CAERNARFON: A pair was present on Bardsey in the breeding season but was unsuccessful. This was only the third

recorded breeding attempt on the island. Autumn passage here peaked at 113 in Sept; DENBIGH: 101 birds were ringed at Bronbannog, Clocaenog Forest between 27th July and 23rd Sept, 47 just on 2nd Sept. 26 birds were ringed in a similar period at sites in the Tanat Valley.

FIRECREST *Regulus ignicapilla*

DRYW PENFFLAMGOCH

(B) A scarce breeding resident and uncommon passage migrant. Wales – Amber listed.

Records of breeding or possible breeding were: GWENT: Birds were on territory at a site first discovered in 2013, with one male singing but with possibly a further two birds at this site; another was heard singing in mid-county. In the east of the county at least one male was singing in the spring. In Wentwood, 12+ males were singing, on territories. The breeding survey planned for 2014 was postponed, but will take place in 2015.

The table below summarises the other records by month for each county:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
GWENT									1	1		
E. GLAMORGAN	1	1	2						1	2	1	1
GOWER	1									3	2	
CARMARTHEN												
PEMBROKE	1	1							1	2	3	
CEREDIGION		1	1						1	1	2	1
BRECON										1		
RADNOR									1	1		
MONTGOMERY			1									
CAERNARFON	1									2	3	2
Bardsey			1	4	3				2	2		
ANGLESEY	3				1				1		1	
DENBIGH	1	1	1						1		2	2

One mist-netted and ringed at Llangasty BRECON on 14th Oct was the first handled by Llangorse Ringing Group in 37 years of monitoring work there.

BLUE TIT *Cyanistes caeruleus*

TITW TOMAS LAS

(D) An abundant resident species, most numerous in deciduous woodland but not restricted to this preferred habitat, especially in winter when it is more numerous. Increasing. Unusual on the Welsh islands.

This species showed a 17% increase in Wales between 1995 and 2013 according to BBS results. GWENT: In the north of the county, around Brynithel, Hafodryns and Blaensychan, 86 nest boxes were occupied, 705 eggs laid and 325 chicks fledged; E. GLAMORGAN: At Coed-y-Bedw there were eleven nests, producing forty-three young of which 14 ultimately fully fledged; GOWER: At Cwm Clydach study area 67 pairs to egg

stage, 55 pairs fledged 422 young, an average of 6.3 per box; CARMARTHEN: Thirty pairs bred in nest boxes at Abbey Woods, Whitland; BRECON: Several observers commented that this species was less frequently encountered during survey work in the breeding season. Up to 50 were at Brecon STW in early Jan; MEIRIONNYDD: At Coed Crafnant, 12 boxes were used, 116 eggs laid and 112 young fledged; CAERNARFON: Two pairs bred on Bardsey, only the fifth breeding record for the island; FLINT: The maximum count were of 124 at Bagillt on 15th Nov. 65 full grown birds were ringed here on 12th Nov.

Breeding records for 8 sites in DENBIGH and FLINT were:

Nesting attempts	Eggs	Eggs hatched	Young fledged	Young per nest
146	1415	1142	955	6.54

GREAT TIT *Parus major*

TITW MAWR

(D) A widespread and numerous species throughout Wales up to approximately 500m above sea level. Increasing. Unusual on the Welsh islands.

The Great Tit seems to be doing very well in Wales, with BBS results showing a 46% increase between 1995 and 2013. GWENT: In the north-east, around Brynithel, Blaensychan and Hafodryns, where intensive nest monitoring is carried out on a much greater scale than elsewhere, a total of 62 nests were monitored; almost of these were in nest boxes and more than 240 chicks fledged; E. GLAMORGAN: At Coed-y-Bedw NR there were 17 nests which produced 76 young of which 61 fully fledged. There was one on Flat Holm on 30th March; GOWER: At Cwm Clydach study area 24 pairs to egg stage of which 22 pairs fledged 135 young, an average of 6.1 per box; MEIRIONNYDD: At Coed Crafnant, 8 boxes were used, 62 eggs laid and 53 young fledged; CAERNARFON: A pair attempted to breed on Bardsey, but was predated by a Sparrowhawk.

Breeding records for 8 sites in DENBIGH and FLINT were:

Nesting attempts	Eggs	Eggs hatched	Young fledged	Young per nest
131	927	867	691	5.27

COAL TIT *Periparus ater*

TITW PENDDU

(D) A widespread and fairly common resident. Most numerous in conifer woodlands. Has increased in the second half of the 20th century with the spread of conifer plantations. Wales – Amber listed.

The Coal Tit population appears to be fairly stable in Wales. BBS results showed a 16% decline between 1995 and 2013, but this was not statistically significant. A 21% increase between 2013 and 2014, however, was significant. MONTGOMERY: A minimum of 50 were counted in the Hafren Forest on 9th Nov.

WILLOW TIT *Poecile montanus***TITWR HELYG**

(C) A thinly distributed resident, most frequent in south and east Wales and absent from most of north-west Wales. Declining across its range. Wales – Red listed.

Numbers are too low for this species to be covered by standard surveys, but it appears to be in trouble in most parts of Wales. Surveys specifically aimed at this species, as at Lake Vyrnwy, would be very valuable. GWENT: It has been apparent for years that this species is in trouble in the county and only one record this year, a single bird found on Ysgryd Fach, although it was believed that a pair may have bred at Wentwood; E. GLAMORGAN: No confirmed breeding reports but singing males were reported from Forest Farm on 6th April and Tirfounder Fields on 17th and 31st March and the species reported present at Tre Castell Woods on 3rd May. More records outside the breeding season, recorded at 11 locations in all; CARMARTHEN: Records were received from 11 sites; PEMBROKE: Seen around the Rosebush, Ty Rhyg, Pantmaenog area throughout the year with a family party of six seen on 27th July. Also seen at the Teifi Marshes, Cneifa Waterfall and Bosherston; CEREDIGION: Seen all year at Cors Caron/ Maesllyn pool with a pair excavating a nest hole in March and up to four together in Aug. Recorded at 6 other sites, some in the breeding season; BRECON: An adult with a juvenile at Pont ar Wysg on 28th June. Recorded at 7 other sites, max count 2-3 near Belfont Farm; RADNOR: A noticeable increase with some re-occupation of old sites where not seen for several years. Recorded at 22 sites in all; MONTGOMERY: A survey at Lake Vyrnwy in March and April found 18 territories on the reserve, a much higher number than previously suspected; MEIRIONNYDD: One pair at least in the Bod Petryal area on 7th March; DENBIGH: Max count of 3 in a garden at Graigfechan on 4th May, and 8th and 15th June. Four were ringed at Bronbannog, Clocaenog in July and Sept; FLINT: A single at Rhydymwyn on 26th May.

2013: MEIRIONNYDD: Three birds ringed at Coed Gwern, Pantperthog on 5th May 2013 at a feeding station.

MARSH TIT *Poecile palustris***TITWR WERN**

(C) A resident species, strongly sedentary, widespread but patchily distributed in the eastern half of Wales and in Pembroke. Scarce or absent in other western and northern areas. Declining across its range. Wales – Red listed.

Like the Willow Tit, the Marsh Tit is not well covered by standard surveys. This is another species in trouble in much of Wales, though it may be holding its ground a little better than Willow Tit. GWENT: Only 26 records, compared with 38 in 2013. More than half of the records came from just two sites: near Osbaston in the lower Monnow Valley and in Penallt woodlands. There were nine records from between Osbaston and Brooksholm of one to three birds and five records from Penallt of singles or pairs. Three records of 1-2 birds from Kings Wood near The Hendre, and 1-2 birds also recorded at the Biblins, Highmeadow Woods, Slade Woods, Hafod Farm, Cefn Hengoed and Cwmoy. The only breeding records were of a pair feeding young in the Angidy Valley, at Little Wenallt on 18th May and at Osbaston on 18th June, and recently-fledged young seen in Highmeadow Wood on 5th June; E. GLAMORGAN: No breeding reports, but single birds at Bedlinog and Cosmeston (Cogan Wood) in April. Recorded at two other sites outside the breeding season; GOWER:

Bred at Ilston Valley and probably bred at Oxwich. Only reported from 4 other locations, max 3 at Oxwich Wood on 12th Jan and 4+ at Ilston Valley on 4th June; CARMARTHEN: The only records received were from Pontiets, Furnace Pond, Pentre-Davis, Talley and Dinas; PEMBROKE: 3 pairs present at Llanychaer, also noted at many suitable woodlands in the county; CEREDIGION: Breeding season records came from Coed Dolgoed, Cors Caron, Blaenpennal, Longwood, Bettws Bledrws, Henllan, Cwm Mwyro and near Aberaeron; BRECON: Breeding season records were one territory in Bronllys Castle woods (Llynfi Valley) and two more along the disused railway at Pont Ithel on 10th March, with a pair at Llangasty in spring. Confirmed breeding reports came from Llwynceilyn YHA woods and Cradoc, and a pair was accompanied by two juveniles in Buckland Wood on 11th Aug. A pair at Fforest Fach on 5th May also suggests breeding in the vicinity. Outside the breeding season, records of 1-2 birds at several other sites including gardens, max 3 coming to seed at The Cwm (Llanwrthwl) during Nov; MONTGOMERY: Widely distributed in small numbers, particularly at Coed Pendugwm, Powis Castle and Lake Vyrnwy; MEIRIONNYDD: One singing at Torrent Walk, Dolgellau on 30th March, one on the county border at Llyn Dinas on 15th April, one at Morfa Harlech on 1st June and one at Cwm Mynach forestry, Taicynhaeaf on 5th June. A welcome increase in records and it appears these are all in new areas; CAERNARFON: The only record of breeding was a family group with 4 chicks at Coed Gorswen on 10th June. Recorded all year at Llanberis and one singing at Penrhyn Castle, Llandegai, on 24th April; ANGLESEY: A pair at Henllys Hall GC woods on 2nd Oct with one calling at Penrhos CP on 15th Oct; DENBIGH: Records of two birds came from Trefriw, Talygarth, Lleweni Hall, Erddig, Llansannan and Bodelwyddan Castle. 9 records from the breeding season but no confirmed breeding records; FLINT: Records of 2 came from Halkyn, Glust, Bodfari, Afonwen, Llanfynydd and with the largest count of 3 at Pantymwyn on 30th July.

BEARDED TIT *Panurus biarmicus*

TITW BARFOG

(A) *An erratic breeding species in one or two locations in very small numbers, most recently at Newport Wetlands; otherwise a rare autumn and winter visitor to reed bed areas. On WRP list away from Gwent and E. Glamorgan. Wales – Amber listed.*

GWENT: Breeding was confirmed again at NWR Uskmouth, with six territories recorded during a coordinated breeding survey, an increase of one in comparison to 2013. Broods of five and two juvs were seen in the second half of June. During Autumn ringing, five individuals were trapped and ringed, including four juvenile birds. All records came from NWR Uskmouth, where monthly maxima were:

Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
1	2	15	8	17	6	3	7	6	6	2	5

E. GLAMORGAN: There were 2, possibly 3, present at Cardiff Bay WR on 6th and 8th Jan and a ringed male there on 4th, 18th and 27th Feb, joined by a second bird on 1st March. A pair were at another site on 31st March and there were 21 at Cardiff Bay WR on 3rd Oct.

WOODLARK *Lullula arborea*

EHEDYDD Y COED

(A) Formerly resident but now extinct as a breeding species.

E. GLAMORGAN: One at Lavernock Point on 12th Oct and two there on 15th Oct; GOWER: 5 at Overton on 10 dates between 22nd Nov and 28th Dec; CAERNARFON: One at Llandudno on 9th March and one on the Great Orme on 29th Oct and 2nd Nov. On Bardsey, one on 5th April and four flew over on 29th Oct.

2013: PEMBROKE: One at Pembroke refinery in November.

SKYLARK *Alauda arvensis*

EHEDYDD

(C) A widespread but declining breeding species; abundant passage migrant in autumn and winter. Wales – Amber listed.

BBS results indicate that the breeding population in Wales is fairly stable, though there was a significant 27% increase between 2013 and 2014. Breeding records and large counts (100+) included: GWENT: 6 pairs on territory at Mynyddislwyn on 27th May, bred at Arail Mountain, Byrgwm and Cefn Crib Hafodryns. On autumn migration, 119 at Peterstone Wentlooge on 21st Sept, E. GLAMORGAN: Breeding confirmed at Caerlan Farm and Craig-yr-efail, and reports of singing birds from 29 locations. 370 in fields at Norton Farm on 28th Sep. October movements produced good numbers of birds, including 150 at Cwm Nash on 1st and 100 at Lavernock Pt on 30th; GOWER: Bred at Cefn Bryn. Max 110 at Rhossili Head/ Causeway on 16th Nov; CARMARTHEN: 124 on stubble fields at Penlan Uchaf on 16th Dec; PEMBROKE: 18 pairs present on Ramsey, 11 pairs on Skokholm and three on Skomer. A density of 18-19 territories per sq km was recorded at Stackpole Warren, within an area of 90 ha of potentially suitable breeding habitat. 100 at Marloes Mere on 18th Oct and 100 at Castlemartin – Linney Burrows on 5th Nov. 465 flew west over Skomer on 22nd Oct; BRECON: Counts of 20-30 singing in suitable habitat at Waun Rydd (Beacons ridge), Hay Bluff, Twyn Talycefn, Esgair Ceiliog (Elan) and Pen y Fan. Counts on two dates in May/June over 5 km sq of upland *Molinia* grassland at Abergwesyn Common yielded an average of only 11 territories/km². 55 birds in the Pen Milan/Allt Ddu area on 6th May; MEIRIONNYDD: Breeding season records from 41 sites across the vice county in lowland grassland areas or upland grassy habitats; CAERNARFON: 16+ territories were recorded on a 74 hectare survey site at Llyn Ffynhonnau on 14th June. Three pairs bred on Bardsey, but only one chick was known to have fledged. 140 at Bodlondeb near Botwnnog on 14th Jan, with max counts from Bardsey of 130 in Sept and 258 in Oct; ANGLESEY: No confirmed breeding records but probably bred at Silver Bay. 125 between Cemlyn and Carmel on 12th Oct, 123 between Cemlyn and Cestyll on 2nd Nov and 450 flew east in two hours at Cemlyn on 29th Oct.

SHORT TOED LARK *Calendrella brachydactyla*

EHEDYDD LLWYD

(A) Rare visitor, on WRP list.

PEMBROKE: One at Martin's Haven on 19th - 21st Sept; ANGLESEY: One at Cemlyn on 7th - 12th Oct.

SAND MARTIN *Riparia riparia*

GWENNOL Y GLENNYDD

(C) Locally common breeding visitor, most numerous in eastern counties, increasing.

Passage migrant in spring and autumn. Wales – Amber listed.

Earliest and latest records for each county:

	Earliest	Site	Latest	Site
GWENT	12 th March	NWR Boat Lane	21 st Sept	Peterstone Wentlooge
E. GLAMORGAN	11 th March	Cosmeston CP	21 st Sept	Radyr foodplain
GOWER	9 th March	Swansea Vale	30 th Sept	Swansea Vale/ R Tawe
CARMARTHEN	12 th March	Cilsan Bridge	7 th Oct	Burry Port
PEMBROKE	9 th March	Teifi Marshes	24 th Oct	Bosherston Village
CEREDIGION	10 th March	Ysbyty Ystwyth		
BRECON	15 th March	Usk at Fennifach	24 th Aug	Roman Road
RADNOR	17 th March	Glasbury		
MONTGOMERY	10 th March	Upper Dyfi estuary	27 th Sept	Dolydd Hafren
MEIRIONNYDD	5 th April	Dolgellau	16 th Aug	Llyn Tegid
CAERNARFON	11 th March	Uwchmynydd	22 nd Sept	Bardsey
ANGLESEY	19 th March	Llyn Cefni	10 th Sept	South Stack
DENBIGH	14 th March	RSPB Conwy	13 th Sept	RSPB Conwy
FLINT	18 th March	Rhyl brickworks pool	30 th Aug	Flint

Breeding records: GWENT: Colonies reported on the River Monnow downstream of Altrynys Rail Bridge, on the Usk near Priory Wood and at Tregate Bridge, Gobion, Monmouth, Llantrisant, Castle Meadows and Llanllowell. Only one bird was seen at the site of a former well-established colony at Llangula on 17th June; E. GLAMORGAN: Another poor season, with breeding only confirmed at Cardiff Bay, R. Ely at Peterston/Pendoylan (ten nests), R. Ogmore at Bridgend and Parc Taf Bargoed; GOWER, The population has made an excellent recovery since 2012-13, with a total of 595-598 nest holes at 14 colonies, max 406 on the R. Loughor above Pontarddulais and 71 at Port Talbot Harbour artificial bank on the Afan. This is a 54% increase on the 385-390 nest holes in 2013, but is still below the 2007-11 average of 656 occupied nest holes; CARMARTHEN: Up to 50 birds visiting nest holes in the “ash cliffs” at Burry Port; PEMBROKE: Bred at Abermawr, Freshwater West and Nolton Haven; BRECON: 200 at breeding banks by the Usk at Scethrog on 22nd April with 220 AON in three colonies there on 22nd June, and 65 by the Wye at Ffordd Fawr on 5th July; MEIRIONNYDD: Confirmed breeding at 3 colonies, including c.120 adults and juveniles at the Tonfanau colony on 1st July; CAERNARFON: 40 at Porth Dinllaen on 25th June, 35 nests at Porth Neigwl on 21st May with 40 birds here on 20th June, 12 at a colony near Trefriw on 21st June, and 3-4 pairs at Llanrwst on the county

border on 26th April. Possible colonies at 3 other sites; ANGLESEY: Bred at Hen Borth and in the sand dunes at Rhosneigr, also at Porth Cwyfan where 25 birds present on 28th July.

High passage counts (100+): GWENT: 115 at Llandegfedd res on 20th April. On autumn passage, 190 at Redwick on 20th July; E. GLAMORGAN: 330 at Cardiff Bay on 27th and 28th March, 100 there on 31st March and 6th April and 200 on 7th April. Post-breeding, 100 at Lavernock Pt on 31st Aug and 100 at Cardiff Bay on 17th Sept; GOWER: 110 at Swansea Vale on 23rd March, 100 there on 4th May and 120 at Loughor Bridge on 14th July; CARMARTHEN: c.200 at Sandy W.P. on 6th April and c.100 over the River Loughor at Llanedi on 25th Sept; PEMBROKE: 100 at Teifi Marshes on 1st April with 400 there on 13th April and 100 on Skomer on 19th Sept; CEREDIGION: 400 at Teifi marshes in April; BRECON: Between 21st and 28th March, 100 daily at Llangorse Lake, with 400 here on 6th and 26th April and other high counts of 200 on 7th April, 300 on 14th June, 300 on 24th July, 400 on 30th, 250 on 2nd Aug and 200 on 10th Aug; MONTGOMERY: 200 at Dolydd Hafren on 27th and 29th April; ANGLESEY: 220 at Llyn Llygeirian on 14th April, 100 at Llyn Traffwll on 4th April with similar numbers 10th - 13th April. 250 at Crigyll river mouth on 2nd July; DENBIGH: Highest counts were at RSPB Conwy, with 300+ on 4th, 7th and 8th April.

SWALLOW *Hirundo rustica*

GWENNOL

(C) A widely distributed and common summer visitor and passage migrant. Wales – Amber listed.

Earliest and latest records for each county:

	Earliest	Site	Latest	Site
GWENT	12 th March	NWR Boat Lane	2 nd Nov	Peterstone Wentlooge
E. GLAMORGAN	21 st March	Kenfig Pool	26 th Nov	Sker
GOWER	2 nd April	Sandfields Estate	2 nd Nov	Rhossili
CARMARTHEN	28 th March	Talley Lakes	21 st Oct	Cilsan Bridge
PEMBROKE	17 th March	Teifi Marshes	1 st Nov	Giltar Point
CEREDIGION	16 th March	Teifi Marshes	25 th Oct	Ynyslas
BRECON	16 th March	Pencelli	19 th Oct	Lyswen
RADNOR	22 nd March	Llowes	31 st Oct	Llanelwedd
MONTGOMERY	30 th March	Llandyssil & Dolydd Hafren	19 th Oct	Dolydd Hafren
MEIRIONNYDD	8 th April	Dolgellau	16 th Sept	Caerdeon
CAERNARFON	30 th March	Morfa Conwy	25 th Nov	Bardsey
ANGLESEY	24 th March	Cemlyn	13 th Oct	Amlwch
DENBIGH	22 nd March	RSPB Conwy	30 th Nov	RSPB Conwy
FLINT	21 st March	Fagl Lane GP	2 nd Oct	Hawarden

BBS results show a 30% increase in Wales between 1995 and 2013. Breeding records: GWENT: In the north of the county, intensive nest monitoring and brood ringing revealed that 30 successful nests between them fledged a total of 128 young, while 7 nests failed. At Penallt, at least ten pairs bred, several of which had second broods; E. GLAMORGAN:

Confirmed breeding at 6 sites; GOWER: Bred at 29 localities; PEMBROKE: 10 pairs present on Ramsey and eight pairs on Skomer; MEIRIONNYDD: Confirmed breeding at 10 sites; CAERNARFON: On Bardsey 17 pairs fledged a minimum of 105 young, with possibly another 10 young from inaccessible nests. Birds apparently nesting at Llyn Conwy at an altitude of c.460 metres on 25th June.

Large passage counts (300+) included: GWENT: Autumn migration began in earnest on 31st Aug, when 690 passed through Peterstone Wentlooge. September numbers there showed a short lull until 4th but between then and 16th there were counts of from 100 to 557. On the 17th 1,232 passed through and this was surpassed on 20th with a count of 2,546. Thereafter numbers declined, though 609 birds were observed on 27th. Elsewhere, 500 at Goldcliff Lagoons on 12th Sept, 332 at Collister Pill on 20th and 781 there on 22nd Sept; E. GLAMORGAN: 400 at Lavernock Pt on 30th Aug and 1,000 there on 31st, max 7,000 at Ogmore Est on 4th Sept, 500 at Llanishen Res on 5th Sept, 800 at Cardiff Bay on the 11th and 500 there and also at Rumney Great Wharf on 12th Sept, 500 at Rumney Great Wharf on 16th Sept, 6,000 at Cardiff Bay and 1,000 at Lavernock Pt on 17th Sept, 1,500 over Lavernock Pt on 18th and 400 over fields near Gabalfa on 19th Sept, 1,000 at Cosmeston CP on 28th Sept; GOWER: Max: 500 at Delvid Farm on 5th May, 700 at Staffal Haegr on 3rd Aug, 300+ at Oxwich on 4th Sept, c.1,500 at River Neath on 13th Sept, 1,000 at Crymlyn Burrows on 14th Sept and 650 at Mumbles Hill on 11th Oct; PEMBROKE: Thousands counted between Haverfordwest and St. Bride's on 13th April, 14,280 on Skomer on 21st Sept, 12,000 on Skokholm on 16th Sept, 500 at Giltar Poit on 4th and 7th Sept and 100's over Pencarnan Camp on 4th Sept; BRECON: 600 at Llangorse Lake on 27th April, 350 here on 11th May. A mixed flock of 500 hirundines over Sarnau on 5th Sept was predominantly Swallow; MONTGOMERY: 300 at Trewern on 14th Sept; CAERNARFON: Spring passage on Bardsey peaked at 2,072 on 13th May, while autumn passage here began with 374 on 8th Aug and peaked at 819 on 15th Sept; ANGLESEY: 450 at Cemlyn on 4th May, 400 on the 8th and 350 on 9th May. 659 juveniles and 137 adults were ringed at Malltraeth Marsh RSPB during late summer. 1,000+ were roosting at Llanllelianna Marsh on 14th Sept; DENBIGH: Maximum count was 900 at Penycae on 4th Sept; FLINT: At least 300 roosted at Rhydymwyn on 8th July with more than 500 there on 16th July. At least 300 were at Hawarden on 3rd Sept.

HOUSE MARTIN *Delichon urbicum*

GWENNOL Y BONDO

(C) Summer visitor, well distributed and locally common. Wales – Amber listed.

Earliest and latest records for each county:

	Earliest	Site	Latest	Site
GWENT	20 th March	Newport Wetlands	11 th Oct	Ruperra
E. GLAMORGAN	1 st March	Cardiff Bay	23 rd Oct	Lavernock Pt
GOWER	3 rd April	Oxwich	11 th Oct	Mumbles Hill
CARMARTHEN	8 th April	Cilsan Bridge	13 th Oct	Pwll
PEMBROKE	8 th April	Llanychaer	17 th Nov	Stackpole
CEREDIGION	2 nd April	Morfa Bychan	9 th Oct	Ynys-hir
BRECON	24 th March	Llangorse		
RADNOR	13 th April	Llandrindod Wells		
MONTGOMERY	13 th April	Llangynog & Berriew	11 th Oct	Machynlleth
MEIRIONNYDD	15 th April	Llyn Tanygrisiau	5 th Sept	Coed Camlyn
CAERNARFON	24 th March	Mynydd Mawr, Uwchmynydd	11 th Oct	Bardsey
ANGLESEY	9 th April	Llyn Cefni	26 th Sept	Malltraeth
DENBIGH			30 th Sept	RSPB Conwy
FLINT	21 st March	Hope	23 rd Nov	Hope

The breeding population in Wales has been fairly stable since 1995 according to BBS results; a 23% decline between 2013 and 2014 was not statistically significant. GWENT: Widespread breeding records, with some pairs successfully fledging two broods; E. GLAMORGAN: Widespread records, including an estimated 78 nests at Penarth Marina; GOWER: Bred at 28 localities; PEMBROKE: A single pair nested on Ramsey; BRECON: Confirmed breeding at 4 sites, and 35 in Libanus in early August probably indicated a good breeding season there; MONTGOMERY: A survey in Newtown found 11 nests, down from 30 nests in 2012; MEIRIONNYDD: Confirmed breeding at 7 sites; CAERNARFON: Five pairs nested on Bardsey, fledging at least 10 young, and confirmed breeding at another 13 sites; ANGLESEY: 34 were collecting mud at Rhosneigr on 20th May.

Large counts on passage (200+) included: GWENT: The first large count at Peterstone was 298 on 24th Aug, with 520 there on the 31st, 262 on 5th Sept, 1,108 on 17th Sept, 880 on the 20th and 879 on the 27th. Large counts also came from Goldcliff, where there were 500 on 12th and 22nd Sept; E. GLAMORGAN: Max 350 at Caerlan Farm in Sept, 1,500 at Cardiff Bay on 6th Sept, 500 at Kenfig Pool on 14th Sept, 800 at Cardiff Bay on 17th, 485 at Cardiff Riding School on 17th with 430 there on 18th, 300 over Lavernock Pt on 18th and 200 there on 24th Sept; GOWER: 200 at Crymlyn Burrows on 14th Sept and 300 at Hills Tor on 19th Sept; PEMBROKE: 300 on Skomer on 19th Sept, 288 on Skokholm on 16th Sept; PEMBROKE/CEREDIGION: 200 at Teifi Marshes on 8th May; BRECON: 250 at Llanwrthwl on 21st Aug, 300 at Libanus on 25th Aug, 300 at Cradoc village on 5th Sept and 250 were over Talybont Res on 8th Sept; CAERNARFON: Passage on Bardsey peaked at 639 on 20th May; FLINT: 250 at Connah's Quay NR on 25th Aug.

CETTI'S WARBLER *Cettia cetti*

TELOR CETTI

(B) Scarce breeding resident in south Wales and Anglesey, increasing; occasionally recorded on passage.

The species has now spread to most parts of Wales with suitable habitat, with the

population probably stable in many areas, though numbers can be affected by severe winters. GWENT: The annual survey of the Uskmouth reed beds and surrounding area resulted in an estimate of 41 singing males within the main survey area and an estimated 50 breeding pairs across the NWR, similar to 2013 or a slight increase. Elsewhere, a singing male at the Felnax Industrial Estate, Newport in June and Sept and a max of 18 singing males at Llanwern steelworks during March and April. 1 - 2 birds all year at Peterstone Wentlooge, with four at the Gout and three at Great Wharf East on 16th May. There were small numbers at Magor Marsh, with four in April and three in May. During autumn ringing at Uskmouth, 22 new birds were ringed and elsewhere on the coast, during the second winter period, there were one or two birds at Magor Pill, The Moorings and Peterstone Wentlooge; E. GLAMORGAN: 15 locations, all coastal reed beds except Parc Slip N.R. No probable or confirmed breeding reports but two recently fledged juveniles ringed at Kenfig NNR on 7th July. Max 12 birds at Kenfig Pool in March; GOWER: Probably bred at Llangennith Moors and present in the breeding season at Oxwich, Staffal Haegr, Crymlyn Bog, Pant y Sais, Brunel Dock, Margam Moors, Eglwys Nunydd Res, R Kenfig reedbeds and Ty'n y Cae/ Margam. Recorded at a further 15 localities, max 10 at Eglwys Nunydd Res on 26th March and 13 on Margam Moors on 6th April; CARMARTHEN: Singing males recorded at Penclacwydd (9), Burry Port, Ffrwd Fen (3), Pinged (2), Banc-y-Lord (3), Commissioners' Bridge, White Bridge and Witchett Pool (4); PEMBROKE: Usual areas of Winterton Marsh, Goodwick Moor, Rhoscrowther, Penally, Teifi Marshes, Tenby-Ritec, Freshwater East and Castlemartin Corse. Away from these sites a single at the Gann estuary on 17th July; CEREDIGION: Seen all year at Teifi Marshes where small numbers bred; BRECON: 4-5 territorial males on south and west shores of Llangorse Lake from mid March to late July; two young from a brood were ringed in August; MONTGOMERY: A late spring passage bird at Cors Dyfi/Morfa Dyfi near or on the border with MEIRIONNYDD and a bird sang briefly at Pwll Penarth on 2nd Nov; MEIRIONNYDD: One singing male at Ynys, Dwyrdd estuary; CAERNARFON: At least 8 singing males at a site near Porthmadog; ANGLESEY: Singing males recorded at RSPB Valley Wetlands (4), Llyn Cerrig Bach (1+), Malltraeth (4), also Llyn Cerrig Bach in Nov and Maltraeth Marsh and Cob in Sept/Oct; DENBIGH: 43 records between Sept and Dec at RSPB Conwy, mostly singles except two on 18th - 19th Nov; FLINT: 7 records at Shotton Steelworks from April to July with confirmed breeding and three ringed in late June/early July.

LONG-TAILED TIT *Aegithalos caudatus*

TITW CYNFFON-HIR

(D) A relatively common resident, widely distributed except on parts of Anglesey and Llyn. Numbers fluctuate from year to year in response to the severity of winter weather. Unusual on the islands. Wales – Amber listed.

Numbers fluctuate, falling after harsh winters and increasing after mild winters. BBS trends for Wales show a 19% increase between 1995 and 2013 and a 37% increase between 2013 and 2014. However, a dramatic fall this year to less than half the level of 2013 was reported in GWENT, with 141 reports as against 283. This appears to have been due to hard winter weather (2013-14). The highest counts (25+) were: E. GLAMORGAN: 40 at Rudry Common on 14th Sept, 25 at Brynna Woods on 3rd Nov; MONTGOMERY: 30 at

Dolydd Hafren on 25th May, 26th Oct and 23rd Nov; CAERNARFON: 40 in the Aber valley on 25th June, 35 at Plas Maenan on 12th Aug; FLINT: 28 at Bagillt on 22nd Nov.

GREENISH WARBLER *Phylloscopus trochiloides*

TELOR GWYRDD

(A) *Rare passage migrant, on WRP list*

There were singles on Skomer PEMBROKE on 7th June and on Bardsey CAERNARFON on 4th Sept.

YELLOW-BROWED WARBLER *Phylloscopus inornatus*

TELOR AELFELYN

(A) *A scarce to uncommon but rapidly increasing, autumn passage migrant.*

Another excellent year for this species. The birds found in western Europe in autumn are apparently not vagrants, but birds which regularly migrate west rather than south to winter. GOWER: One at Mewslade Valley on 5th Oct, one at Margam railway sidings on 17th, a male ringed at Oxwich Marsh on 25th with one heard there on 30th; E. GLAMORGAN: Singles at Dunraven, at Waterton Ind. Estate, Pant Norton, Maesteg and Kenfig NNR on various October dates; PEMBROKE: Singles on Skokholm on 28th Oct, on Skomer on 11th with two there on 29th, one of which remained until 2nd Nov, and another present on 11th Nov; RADNOR: Singles at Ciloerwent on 2nd Nov and at Presteigne on 24th Oct and 2nd Nov; CAERNARFON: On Bardsey there were 14 records totalling 21 individuals from 21st Sept to 5th Nov, with a peak of 10 here on 29th Oct. Elsewhere singles at Porth Meudwy on 14th - 15th and 19th Oct, one at Ty'n Llwyn above Llanfairfechan on 14th Oct, one on the Great Orme on 16th Oct and one here from 30th Oct to 2nd Nov and an unusually late record of one at Morfa Madryn from 29th Nov to 2nd Dec; ANGLESEY: Singles at Soldier's Point on 26th Sept and 23rd - 24th Oct, at Carmel Head and Henborth on 11th Oct, at the Breakwater CP and Carmel Head on 12th and again at the Breakwater CP from 23rd to 29th Oct; DENBIGH: One ringed at Rhos-on-Sea on 29th Oct.

WESTERN BONELLI'S WARBLER *Phylloscopus bonelli*

TELOR BONELLI

Rare passage migrant, on BBRC list

One on Bardsey CAERNARFON on 31st Aug was the seventh record for the island.

WOOD WARBLER *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*

TELOR Y COED

(C) *A summer visitor to oak woods throughout most of upland Wales, declining; passage migrant in small numbers at coastal sites. Wales – Red listed.*

No BBS trend can be calculated for Wales, but the species is thought to be declining. BBS results show a 58% decrease in the UK between 1995 and 2013, and since Wales is one

of the strongholds of this species in the UK, these figures are probably a fair reflection of the trend here.

Table of earliest and latest reports in each county:

	Earliest	Site	Latest	Site
GWENT	11 th April	Priory Wood		
E. GLAMORGAN	7 th May	Fforest Fawr	7 th Aug	Radyr Floodplain
GOWER	12 th April	Waugaled Wood, Margam	9 th Sept	Gowerton
CARMARTHEN	21 st April	Dinas	14 th June	Crychan Forest
PEMBROKE	2 nd May	Minwear		
CEREDIGION	21 st April	Cwm Clettwr		
BRECON	21 st April	The Cwm, Llanwrthwl	6 th July	Talybont Reservoir
RADNOR	26 th April	Llandrindod Wells		
MONTGOMERY	18 th April	Llanidloes	11 th July	Lake Vyrnwy
MEIRIONNYDD	23 rd April	Corwen	1 st July	Vale of Ffestiniog
CAERNARFON	11 th April	Coedydd Aber	4 th Sept	Bardsey
DENBIGH	26 th April	Coed Hafod	20 th June	Eglwyseg, Foel
FLINT	5 th May	Pantymwyn	21 st June	Pantymwyn

Records of breeding or possible breeding were: GWENT: In Wentwood, 26 nests were found and of 25 monitored, at least 12 were predated. Fledged young were seen on 20th June at Craig Llwyfas, Abercarn. Eight singing birds were heard from the trail in St Mary's Vale on 12th May, and birds were recorded at 13 other sites; E. GLAMORGAN: Present in the breeding season at 4 sites; GOWER: 2- 3 pairs bred at Craig Emroch, also bred Cwm Dyffryn and Drysiog Farm and probably bred at another 5 sites. Highest numbers in Afan Valley with 7 singing males between Pontrhydyfen and Efail Fach and 7 between Rhyslyn and Craig Gyfylchi; CARMARTHEN: 20+ at the Forestry Commission site at Abergorlech and 14 at Cefn Arthen, Halfway Forest on 3rd May, six at Dinas and one at Carreg Cennen Woods on 4th May, one singing at Allt Blaen-eigiau on 24th May and five at Talley Woods on 7th June; PEMBROKE: In the breeding season noted at Canaston Wood, Minwear, Blackpool Mill and Old Mill grounds; CEREDIGION: 12 singing males at Allt-Y-Crib, Talybont and ten singing males at Longwood, Bettws Bledrws; BRECON: Singing males at 11 sites, including 6 along 800 metres of wooded valley side adjoining RSPB Carngafallt on 11th May; RADNOR: Further decline in numbers at some sites; MONTGOMERY: Lake Vyrnwy and the Hafren Forest area are strongholds for the species; MEIRIONNYDD: 4 recorded at Tir Stent on 4th May, in Coed Maentwrog on 11th May, at Gogarth Farm on 15th May, at Llanbedr on 21st May and at Bod Petryal on 22nd May. 1-3 birds recorded at 15 other sites; CAERNARFON: No records of confirmed breeding, but probable breeding in Nant Ffrancon and at least two singing males near Bethesda, three singing males in Coed Dolgarrog, two singing in Coedydd Aber, probably two different singing males in Nant Gwynant and five pairs on territory in the Llanberis area; ANGLESEY: One at Llyn Parc Mawr from 29th May to 1st June; DENBIGH: Max 2 at Garth, Trevor Hall, on 27th May.

CHIFFCHAFF *Phylloscopus collybita*

SIFF-SIAFF

(B) A locally common breeding visitor in most counties, declining, wintering in small numbers. Scarce on Anglesey.

BBS trends show a 68% increase in Wales between 1995 and 2013, and a further 14% increase between 2013 and 2014. Notable records of breeding and passage birds were: GWENT: 31 birds including 26 singing males at NWR Uskmouth on 29th March; RADNOR: A continued increase in breeding numbers was noted; MEIRIONNYDD: 11 at Caerdeon on 5th Nov were thought to be migrants: a large group for such a late date; CAERNARFON: Autumn passage on Bardsey peaked at 443 on 19th Sept.

Summary of the number of wintering individuals of the nominate race by month and county, where information available:

	Jan.	Feb.		Nov.	Dec.
GWENT	9				4
GOWER	2	1			3
CARMARTHEN	2	3			1
PEMBROKE	8	3			13
CEREDIGION				2	1
BRECON	3	3		1	
MONTGOMERY				9	4
MEIRIONNYDD	1			3	
CAERNARFON	6	3		1	8
ANGLESEY	1			2	
DENBIGH	1	1		P	2
FLINT		1		P	4+

Elsewhere: E. GLAMORGAN: Records from 15 sites in the 1st winter period, max 4 at Llwynypia on 17th Jan. In the 2nd winter period, reports from 17 sites.

One bird at NWR Uskmouth GWENT on 11th Jan showed characteristics of the race *abietinus*.

P. c. tristis (Siberian Chiffchaff)

This race is assessed by the WRP. Accepted records were: PEMBROKE: Two birds at Pembroke Mill Pond on 16th Feb and one trapped on Skokholm on 2nd Nov. A DNA test on feathers confirmed the ID of the Skokholm bird; BRECON One at Brecon STW between 7th Feb and 24th March, with a second bird there between 3rd and 13th March, the first confirmed county records. One was back at Brecon STW on 24th Nov; CAERNARFON: 5 on Bardsey on 29th Oct, two on 30th and one remaining to 31st.

WILLOW WARBLER *Phylloscopus trochilus*

TELOR YR HELYG

(C) The most abundant summer visitor. Numerous in suitable habitats up to around 670 m. Also numerous passage migrant. Wales – Red listed.

BBS trends show a 7% decrease in Wales between 1995 and 2013, though this was not statistically significant. Table of earliest and latest reports in each county:

	Earliest	Site	Latest	Site
GWENT	22 nd March	Llandegfedd	24 th Sept	Great Barnets Wood
E. GLAMORGAN	21 st March	Aberdare	1 st Oct	Pant-yr-Awel
GOWER	28 th March	Goytre Cemetery	26 th Sept	Llanmadoc
CARMARTHEN	30 th March	Penclacwydd; Burry Port	10 th Sept	Pembrey Harbour
PEMBROKE	27 th March	Skokholm	14 th Oct	Skomer
CEREDIGION	30 th March	Cwmtydu & Aberystwyth	23 rd Sept	Blaenpennal
BRECON	31 st March	The Cwm, Llanwrthwl & Battle Hill	28 th Aug	Cwmbrynich Farm
RADNOR	26 th March	Llowes		
MONTGOMERY	30 th March	Newtown & Dolydd Hafren	28 th Sept	Dolydd Hafren
MEIRIONNYDD	26 th March	Pont Croesor	5 th Sept	Coed Camlyn
CAERNARFON	23 rd March	Nefyn	16 th Oct	Bardsey
ANGLESEY	30 th March	South Stack & Silver Bay	10 th Oct	Soldiers Point
DENBIGH	30 th March	Llanfair Talhaearn & Llangollen	14 th Oct	RSPB Conwy
FLINT	26 th March	Rhuddlan	31 st Aug	Rhydymwyn

On Skokholm PEMBROKE spring max. was 150 on 22nd April; autumn max 134 on 6th Sept. On Bardsey CAERNARFON spring passage max was 292 on 11th April, autumn max 280 on 25th July.

BLACKCAP *Sylvia atricapilla*

TELOE PENDDU

(C) A plentiful summer visitor throughout Wales, increasing; passage migrant and small-scale winter visitor.

BBS results show a 176% increase in Wales between 1995 and 2013, and a further 25% increase between 2013 and 2014. Only wintering records are given, the table below gives min. totals of individuals for both winter periods, for each county, where information available. Most birds are in gardens:

	Jan	Feb	Nov	Dec
GWENT	3+	2+		6
GOWER	1	1		9
CARMARTHEN			1	1
PEMBROKE				2
BRECON	1	1	2	1
RADNOR	4*			
MONTGOMERY	2	2	4	5
MEIRIONNYDD			1	2
CAERNARFON	4	2	5	7
ANGLESEY			3	

* Dec – Feb

Elsewhere: E. GLAMORGAN: From 1st Jan until 22nd March there were 21 records in total, most 1 or 2 birds but max 4, almost all in the southern half of the recording area. There were 22 records for Nov and Dec, almost all in the south of the recording area; DENBIGH: Recorded in all the winter months; FLINT: Recorded in all the winter months, most records between Jan and March were singles.

GWENT: 162 birds were trapped and ringed at NWR Uskmouth during passage monitoring, including 65 birds on 21st and 51 on 28th Sept;

GARDEN WARBLER *Sylvia borin*

TELOR YR ARDD

(C) A common and widely distributed summer visitor and passage migrant. Wales – Amber listed.

BBS results show a 22% decrease in Wales between 1995 and 2013. Table of earliest and latest reports in each county:

	Earliest	Site	Latest	Site
GWENT	11 th April	Penallt	5 th Oct	NWR Uskmouth
E. GLAMORGAN	15 th April	Parc Slip N.R.	12 th Oct	Kenfig NNR
GOWER	5 th April	Graig Goch	2 nd Oct	Mewslade
CARMARTHEN	14 th April	Nant y Garreg Farm, Cwmdudau	1 st July	Dryslwyn Bridge
PEMBROKE	15 th April	Slebech	22 nd Nov	Broad Haven
CEREDIGION	14 th April	Nanternis	22 nd Sept	Pen Dinas, Aberystwyth
BRECON	20 th April	Samau	26 th Aug	Brecon
RADNOR	30 th April	Presteigne		
MONTGOMERY	8 th April	Llanerfyl	31 st Aug	Llanfyllin
MEIRIONNYDD	28 th April	Cutiau, Mawddach		
CAERNARFON	20 th April	Llyn Padarn	29 th Sept	Bardsey
ANGLESEY	24 th April	Llyn Cefni	2 nd Oct	South Stack
DENBIGH	23 rd April	Rhyd-y-Foel	13 th Sept	RSPB Conwy
FLINT	20 th April	Penycloddiau	31 st July	Flint saltmarsh

BARRED WARBLER *Sylvia nisoria*

TELOR RHESOG

(A) A rare visitor, on WRP list.

PEMBROKE: Singles on Ramsey on 29th Sept and on Skomer on 25th Oct;
CAERNARFON: Six singles on Bardsey, on 19th Sept, 21st - 29th Sept, 11th - 15th Oct, 28th Oct, 29th Oct and 31st Oct.

LESSER WHITETHROAT *Sylvia curruca*

LLWYDFRON FACH

(C) A summer visitor, declining. Passage migrant in small numbers.

No BBS trends can be calculated for Wales. BTO Atlas results show a westward extension of range into Llŷn and western PEMBROKE between 1988-91 and 2007-11, but some losses further east. Table of earliest and latest reports in each county:

	Earliest	Site	Latest	Site
GWENT	10 th April	NWR Saltmarsh Lane	20 th Sept	Peterstone Gout
E. GLAMORGAN	12 th April	Kenfig NNR	21 st Sept	Cardiff Bay Wetland Res
GOWER	11 th April	Morfa Tip	13 th Sept	Ferryboat Wood/ Earlswood
CARMARTHEN	21 st April	Dinefwr Ponds	31 st Aug	Kidwelly Quay
PEMBROKE	13 th April	Haroldston	30 th Oct	Skokholm
CEREDIGION	18 th April	Llanrhystud	4 th Nov	Frongoch, Aberystwyth
RADNOR	18 th April	Glasbury		
MONTGOMERY	15 th April	Dolydd Hafren	21 st Sept	Dolydd Hafren
MEIRIONNYDD	25 th May	Tonfanau		
CAERNARFON	16 th April	Aber Ogwen	6 th Oct	Bardsey
ANGLESEY	15 th April	Valley	9 th July	Llyn Maelog
DENBIGH	13 th April	Holt; RSPB Conwy	3 rd Sept	RSPB Conwy
FLINT	19 th April	Rhyl Brickworks	16 th Aug	Connah's Quay

In RADNOR, the species was said to be unusually widespread, with the highest ever number of records.

On Skokholm PEMBROKE a bird of the race *S.c. blythi* (Siberian Lesser Whitethroat) on 3rd - 5th Oct was trapped. DNA analysis of a feather confirmed this as the first record of this race in Wales.

There were two winter records, both of birds thought to be of the eastern race, though this was not confirmed. In E GLAMORGAN a bird at a garden bird feeder in January was videoed, but the race could not be confirmed. One suspected to be of the race *blythii* was on the Little Orme, CAERNARFON on 7th Dec.

WHITETHROAT *Sylvia communis*

LLWYDFRON

(C) A widespread summer visitor; formerly abundant. Common passage migrant. Wales – Amber listed.

BBS results suggest that the population has been fairly stable in Wales over the past 20 years. In CEREDIGION, 29 singing males at Cross Inn Forest on 21st May, compared to 17 in 2013.

Table of earliest and latest reports in each county:

	Earliest	Site	Latest	Site
GWENT	11 th April	NWR Uskmouth	13 th Sept	Peterstone Wentlooge
E. GLAMORGAN	11 th April	Radyr Floodplain	25 th Oct	Parc Slip N.R.
GOWER	10 th April	Margam Moors	28 th Sept	Crymlyn Burrows
CARMARTHEN	13 th April	Pembrey	21 st Sept	Penrhyngwyn
PEMBROKE	11 th April	Amroth	25 th Sept	Skokholm
CEREDIGION	15 th April	Llanrhystud	13 th Sept	Aberaeron
BRECON	14 th April	Cwmgwdi	28 th Aug	Llechfaen
RADNOR	23 rd April	Begwyns		
MONTGOMERY	15 th April	Cors Dyfi	27 th Sept	Dolydd Hafren
MEIRIONNYDD	18 th April	Carrog & Traethdy, Harlech	23 rd Aug	Penrhyndeudraeth sewage wks
CAERNARFON	15 th April	Bardsey	5 th Nov	Bardsey
ANGLESEY	15 th April	Llyn Traffwll	21 st Sept	Hen Borth
DENBIGH	16 th April	RSPB Conwy	10 th Oct	Bod Hyfryd
FLINT	30 th March	Bagillt	29 th Sept	Connah's Quay

The bird on Bardsey on 5th Nov was the latest ever for the island.

DARTFORD WARBLER *Sylvia undata*

TELOR DARTFORD

(B) *First bred in 1998 and in small numbers subsequently, increasing. Wales – Amber listed.*

The species has now spread to north Wales, and will probably increase further given mild winters. E. GLAMORGAN: Two birds were seen on 11th Nov in the south; GOWER: Bred at Overton/ Common Cliff, Oxwich Pt, Pennard/ Southgate, Caswell/ Langland and Langland/ Limeslade, probably bred at a futher two sites and present in the breeding season at another five; CARMARTHEN: A singing male at Ragwen Point on 2nd Oct was the first record since 2009; PEMBROKE: Three confirmed, two probable and two possible breeding pairs. The population has apparently been quite severely reduced by salt burn of gorse during the 2013-14 winter; CEREDIGION: A single bird seen near Trefechan at the Rheidol on 30th Nov; CAERNARFON: Probably bred at the usual two breeding sites on Llŷn and near the north coast, elsewhere one near Nefyn on 30th May.

SUBALPINE WARBLER *Sylvia cantillans*

TELOR BRONGOCH

(A) *Rare vagrant, on WRP list.*

Records of Eastern Subalpine Warbler (*S. c. albistriata*) were: PEMBROKE: A male at St. David's Head on 13th April and a 1st summer female on Skokholm on 15th May; CAERNARFON: A female on Bardsey on 16th May. Feathers from this bird were DNA tested to confirm its identity.

GRASSHOPPER WARBLER *Locustella. naevia*

TROELLWR BACH

(C) Summer visitor, widely but thinly distributed in all counties. Passage migrant. Wales – Red listed.

No BBS trends can be calculated for Wales, and there is not enough information to know how the population is doing. Table of earliest and latest reports in each county:

	Earliest	Site	Latest	Site
GWENT	12 th April	NWR Uskmouth	20 th July	Llandegfedd Res
E. GLAMORGAN	9 th April	Merthyr Mawr Warren	21 st Sept	Radyr floodplain
GOWER	9 th April	Longhole Cliff & Oxwich NNR	5 th Oct	Oxwich
CARMARTHEN	14 th April	Cilsan Bridge	17 th Sept	Gweunydd Cochion
PEMBROKE	12 th April	Pantmaenog	25 th Sept	Skokhom
CEREDIGION	3 rd April	Mwnt		
BRECON	24 th April	Garnhiw, Llanwrthwl	16 th Aug	Llangasty reed beds
RADNOR	17 th April	Rhosgoch		
MONTGOMERY	14 th April	Cors Dyfi	14 th Aug	Cors Dyfi
MEIRIONNYDD	15 th April	Tonfanau Station	31 st July	Cwm Penanner
CAERNARFON	3 rd April	Bardsey	21 st Sept	Bardsey
ANGLESEY	13 th April	Gadfa	11 th July	Gors Goch
DENBIGH	15 th April	World's End, Ruabon Mt	23 rd Sept	Bronbannog
FLINT	30 th April	Gronant/Talacre area	7 th June	Gronant/Talacre area

Breeding information as follows: GWENT: Confirmed breeding at NWR Uskmouth, with reeling recorded into July, but no other records of confirmed breeding; E. GLAMORGAN: Confirmed breeding at Caerlan Farm, Penrhiwfer and reeling males at three other sites; GOWER: Probably bred at Pant-y-Sais Fen and present at another 5 sites; CARMARTHEN: Three seen at Burry Port on 22nd May and reeling males at three other sites; PEMBROKE: Six reeling at Trefeiddan Moor at midnight on 1st May; CEREDIGION: Widely reported in suitable habitat during the breeding season; BRECON: 7 reports from four locations in the west of the county during May, and one reeling at Ty Mawr, Llangasty on 25th July; RADNOR: Reeling birds at 14 sites; MONTGOMERY: Present at 4 sites; MEIRIONNYDD: Fewer records than in 2013. 1-2 singing birds at 13 sites and 3+ at Dyrysgol, Penaran, on 30th April; CAERNARFON: 1-2 reeling birds at 13 likely breeding sites. Spring migration on Bardsey peaked at 12 on 17th April and on return passage a very early bird here on 1st July with a peak of 9 on 19th Sept; ANGLESEY: 9 singing males at Malltraeth Marsh and an adult feeding young at Ty'n Llan, Cemlyn, in early June, with a juvenile seen in early July. Singing birds at 8 other sites; DENBIGH: 28 records mainly May - July at World's End and in July and Sept at Bronbannog with six ringed in Sept; FLINT: 6 records, all from the Gronant / Talacre dunes area.

SAVI'S WARBLER *Locustella luscinioides*

TELOR SAVI

(A) Very rare vagrant, on BBRC list

GWENT: A bird that arrived in poor weather at NWR Uskmouth on the 24th May was a new

record for the county and the first in Wales since 1999. The last confirmed sighting was on 8th June.

ICTERINE WARBLER *Hippolais icterina*
(A) A scarce but regular migrant, on WRP list

TELOR AUR

The only records were singles on Skomer and on Skokholm PEMBROKE, both on 2nd Sept.

MELODIOUS WARBLER *Hippolais polyglotta*
(A) A scarce but regular migrant, on WRP list.

TELOR PER

Singles recorded on Skomer PEMBROKE on 3rd Sept, 26th Sept and 2nd -4th and 10th Oct.

SEDGE WARBLER *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

TELOR YR HESG

(C) A locally distributed summer visitor, numerous in some sites, increasing; plentiful passage migrant.

Table of earliest and latest reports in each county:

	Earliest	Site	Latest	Site
GWENT	26 th March	NWR Goldcliff	21 st Sept	Peterstone Wentlooge
E. GLAMORGAN	13 th April	Cardiff Bay and Kenfig NNR	23 rd Sept	Cardiff Bay WR
GOWER	4 th April	Moor Lake Llanmadoc	2 nd Oct	Oxwich
CARMARTHEN	13 th April	Ffrwd Fen	7 th Sept	Penrhyngwyn
PEMBROKE	11 th April	3 sites	21 st Sept	Skokholm
CEREDIGION	11 th April	Teifi Marshes		
BRECON	12 th April	Llangasty	7 th Sept	River Usk at Brynich
RADNOR	13 th April	Llowes		
MONTGOMERY	17 th April	Cors Dyfi	24 th Sept	Llyn Coed y Dinas
MEIRIONNYDD	20 th April	Broadwater	19 th Aug	Llandanwg
CAERNARFON	1 st April	Bardsey	19 th Sept	Bardsey
ANGLESEY	17 th April	Llyn Penrhyn	4 th Aug	Silver Bay
DENBIGH	15 th April	RSPB Conwy	13 th Sept	RSPB Conwy
FLINT	12 th April	Talacre	24 th August	Gronant

The bird on 26th March at NWR Goldcliff was the earliest ever for GWENT, the previous record being 29th March in 1969, and the bird on Bardsey on 1st April was the earliest ever for CAERNARFON.

BBS trends cannot be calculated for Wales, but the population is probably stable or increasing slightly. Breeding records and other notable records included: GWENT:

Breeding was confirmed at NWR Uskmouth, at Llanwern steelworks and at Monmouth. Singing was noted widely during the breeding season at many other sites. Goldcliff Ringing Group undertook autumn monitoring of passage birds at the NWR Uskmouth reedbeds and between late July and early Sept a total of 446 birds were trapped and ringed, including 97 birds on 15th Aug; E. GLAMORGAN: A recently-fledged juvenile ringed at Kenfig NNR on 16th May and possible breeding at ten southerly locations; GOWER: 12 males singing at Margam Moors on 3rd May, and post-breeding 71 at W marsh Staffal Haegr on 3rd Aug; CARMARTHEN: During the breeding season five singing males were at Penclacwydd with 1-2 birds at another three sites; PEMBROKE: A single on Grassholm on 31st May and there were 44 territories on Skomer; BRECON: 4 territories between Llangorse Common and Llangasty Church and at least 3 pairs bred near Caeau Ty Mawr, Llangasty, with 1-2 birds at 3 other sites; RADNOR: A noticeable increase in singing birds; MONTGOMERY: The highest counts were 20 at Dolydd Hafren on 29th April and 10 at Cors Dyfi on 5th May; MEIRIONNYDD: 7 around the shore of Llyn Tegid on 15th May, with birds present in the breeding season at another 7 sites; CAERNARFON: At least three pairs nesting on Bardsey, with confirmed breeding at another 5 sites. Most records came from the coast or the Conwy valley; ANGLESEY: 8 territorial males at Cemlyn and 88 juveniles caught at Malltraeth Marsh, also bred at two other sites; DENBIGH: Most records from RSPB Conwy and Pensarn; FLINT: Confirmed breeding at 3 sites and birds present in the breeding season at another two. The dunes between Talacre and Gronant accounted for most records.

BLYTH'S REED WARBLER *Acrocephalus dunetorum* TELOR Y CYRS BLYTH
(A) *Vagrant, on BBRC list.*

One found in North Haven on Skomer, PEMBROKE on 26th May was the third record for Wales, while a singing bird on Bardsey, CAERNARFON on 7th June was the second record for the island and the county, and the fourth for Wales. The previous records were on Bardsey in October 2001 and on Skokholm on 27th Sept 2013.

MARSH WARBLER *Acrocephalus palustris* TELOR Y GWERNI
(A) *Rare vagrant, on WRP list*

There was a singing male on Bardsey CAERNARFON on 29th - 30th May and one here on 4th Sept.

REED WARBLER *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

TELOR Y CYRS

(C) Local summer visitor, breeding in reedbeds in many counties, increasing; scarce passage migrant.

Table of earliest and latest reports in each county:

	Earliest	Site	Latest	Site
GWENT	9 th April	NWR Farnfield Lane	28 th Sept	Uskmouth
E. GLAMORGAN	8 th April	Cosmeston	28 th Sept	Kenfig NNR
GOWER	17 th April	Oxwich Marsh	27 th Sept	Oxwich
CARMARTHEN	7 th May	Ashpits Pond	21 st Sept	Penrhyngwyn
PEMBROKE	15 th April	Slebech	28 th Sept	Fort Popton
CEREDIGION	20 th April	Teifi Marshes		
BRECON	18 th April	Llangorse Lake	21 st Aug	Llangorse Lake
RADNOR	23 rd April	Llanbwchllyn		
MONTGOMERY	13 th April	Dolydd Hafren	24 th Sept	Llyn Coed y Dinas
MEIRIONNYDD	4 th May	Tonfanau	31 st July	Aberdysynni
CAERNARFON	24 th April	Pwllheli	1 st Oct	Bardsey
ANGLESEY	18 th April	Carmel Head	11 th Sept	Malltraeth Marsh
DENBIGH	15 th April	RSPB Conwy	22 nd Sept	RSPB Conwy
FLINT	19 th April	Talacre	12 th Sept	Shotton paper mill

The species is doing well in Wales, and has spread to new sites in several counties in recent years. Breeding records and other notable records included: GWENT: Breeding was only confirmed at Llanwern, but singing birds on territories were reported widely and regularly from the known strongholds. At the Uskmouth reed beds a total of 414 birds were trapped and ringed during late July and early Sept by the GRG; E. GLAMORGAN: Breeding was confirmed at Cardiff Bay WR and Cors Crychudd Reen and two recently fledged juveniles ringed at Kenfig NNR on 16th May, probably bred at another two sites and possibly at a further 11 locations; GOWER: Bred at Oxwich NNR, Staffal Haegr W marsh & E field, Crymlyn Burrows, Baglan Pill, Crymlyn Bog, Baglan Energy Park and Bendle's Pond Skewen, probably bred at another two sites and present at a further 7 sites. Post-breeding counts included 20 at Staffal Haegr on 3rd Aug, while the Oxwich ringing group trapped 22 passage birds on 7th Aug; CARMARTHEN: 15 singing males at Penclacwydd and 10 at Ffrwd Fen on 13th June; CEREDIGION: Bred at Teifi Marshes, Cors Fochno/Aberleri/Glandwr and Ynys-hir; BRECON: In the Llangorse Lake reed beds, reports suggested a stable population of 70-90 pairs. The only other report was of a male in song by the Usk at Scethrog on 22nd June; MONTGOMERY: Bred in the the Dyfi Estuary, Dolydd Hafren and Llyn Coed y Dinas; MEIRIONNYDD: Recorded from 5 sites; CAERNARFON: Recorded at 7 sites in the breeding season; ANGLESEY: Bred at RSPB Valley Wetlands and at Malltraeth Marsh where 18 juveniles were ringed; DENBIGH: A large increase in reports (83) with most (77%) coming from RSPB Conwy, and 14% from the Pensarn area; FLINT: Reports came from Talacre / Gronant, Rhyl Brickworks, Shotton and Rhydymwyn with breeding proven at Rhyl Brickworks. A maximum of six ringed at Shotton Steelworks on 13th July.

WAXWING *Bombycilla garrulus*
(B) Scarce winter visitor

CYNFFON SIDAN

Not recorded in Wales in 2014.

NUTHATCH *Sitta europaea*

DELOR Y CNAU

(D) A widely distributed and fairly numerous resident of mature deciduous and mixed woodland throughout Wales. Increasing. Unusual on the Welsh islands.

The Nuthatch continues to do well in Wales, with BBS trends showing a 55% increase between 1995 and 2013 and a 27% increase between 2013 and 2014. GWENT: 17 pairs fledged young from boxes in the Aberbeeg/Abercarn/Brinithel/Hafodyrynys area in the Eastern Valleys; GOWER: At Cwm Clydach study area, all 5 pairs were successful, fledging 5.2 young per box, the best year since 2009.

TREECREEPER *Certhia familiaris*

DRINGWR BACH

(D) Resident. Widely distributed in woodlands throughout Wales. Increasing. Unusual on the islands.

BBS trends indicate that the population in Wales is stable.

WREN *Troglodytes troglodytes*

DRYW

(D) Abundant resident, found from sea-level to 3,000ft.

The number of breeding Wrens fluctuates, depending on the severity of recent winters. BBS trends showed a 29% increase in Wales between 2013 and 2014.

STARLING *Sturnus vulgaris*

DRUDWEN

(C) An abundant resident; passage migrant and winter visitor in large numbers. Wales – Red listed.

The Starling is not doing well as a breeding bird in Wales, with BBS trends showing a 70% decrease between 1995 and 2013, and a further 14% decrease between 2013 and 2014. There are very few systematic breeding counts available.

Large flocks (1,000+) in the 1st winter period: GWENT: 2,000+ on pylons near Newhouse Industrial Park, Chepstow, on 16th Feb; E. GLAMORGAN: 1,000 at Cardiff Bay WR on 11th Jan, a murmuration of 6,000 here on 13th and 18th Feb, 1,600+ at Rhaslas Pond on 16th Feb, and 4,000 at Cardiff Bay WR on 19th Feb; GOWER: 2,000+ over Baglan Ind Est on 4th Jan; BRECON: 2,000 on Traeth Mawr on 21st Jan and a roost of 10,000 on Epynt on 1st

March; MONTGOMERY: 7,600 near Llanerfyl on 15th Jan with 4,500 on the same date near Llyn Hir; 3,000 at Cefn Coch on 20th Feb; MEIRIONNYDD: 3,500 into the roost just west of Llyn Celyn on 3rd Feb and in the last week of Feb 100,000+ in a huge flock heading from this area up toward the Ysbyty Ifan and Gwydir forest area in CAERNARFON. 1,000 at Pont Croesor on 4th March; DENBIGH: 1,000 at Pen-yr-eryr, Berwyn Mountains, on 18th Feb and 3,000 at Pant, Llandegla, on 26th Feb.

In the 2nd winter period: GWENT: Autumn movement over Peterstone was noted from late Aug on, peaking at 6,770 on 9th Nov. A roost at The Moorings held 1,500 on 13th Nov and there were 110,000 roosting at Newport WR between 14th Nov and 9th Dec; E.GLAMORGAN: 1,000 at Cardiff Bay WR on 31st Oct, 2,000 at the Norwegian Church in Cardiff Bay on 5th Nov, 4,500 at Haillard Court, Atlantic Wharf on 9th Nov, 4,000 at Llanmaes on 12th Nov, 10,000+ leaving roost at Kenfig NNR on 24th Nov, and a murmuration of 10,000 at Cardiff Bay WR on 24th Dec with 2,500 there on 28th Dec; GOWER: 1,000 at Middleton on 26th Oct; CARMARTHEN: c.6,000 at Llangennech on 27th Nov, c.50,000 at Brechfa Forest on 3rd Dec and c.5,000 at Ashpits Pond on 29th Dec; PEMBROKE: 7,000 at Skrinkle, on 16th Nov, max 20,000 at Plumstone in the winter roost, lower than previous years; CEREDIGION: 5,000 east of Talgarreg on 20th Nov with 7,500 there on 29th Dec; 3,000 west at Horeb on 29th Dec and 36,500 roosted at Aberystwyth pier on 3rd Dec; BRECON: The Llangorse Lake roost increased from 2,500 on 17th Oct to 12,000 on 24th Oct and 15,000 on 29th and there were 10,000 at roost near Dixies Corner on Epynt by 5th Nov; RADNOR: A roost of 105,000+ at Llandegley mid-Dec; CAERNARFON: 1,000+ flew south over Llandudno Junction on 28th Oct. 12,000 roosting at Cors Ystumlyn on 18th Nov and 2,500 were probably roosting at Hafan y Môr, Pwllheli, on 2nd Nov; ANGLESEY: 25,000 flew towards Rhoscolyn to roost on 27th Nov, 3,610 between Cemlyn and Carmel on 1st Nov with 2,700 there on 2nd, 20,000 at Llyn Bodgylched on 6th Dec, c.1,000 at a pre-roost gathering at Llyn Maelog on 7th July; DENBIGH: 1,000+ at RSPB Conwy on 10th Oct increasing to 3,000 on 28th Oct but down to 2,000 on 30th Oct until 9th Dec; FLINT: 2,000 at Connah's Quay N.R. on 2nd Sept.

ROSE-COLOURED STARLING *Sturnus roseus*

DRUDWEN WRIDOG

(A) A rare visitor, on WRP list.

A juvenile was at Lleithyr Farm Campsite, St. David's, PEMBROKE from 19th to 26th Sept; an adult was in a garden in Valley, ANGLESEY on 9th and 10th June.

DIPPER *Cinclus cinclus*

BRONWEN Y DWR

(D) Common resident of fast flowing streams, particularly in hill areas. In winter some individuals move into the lowlands and also make use of estuaries, rocky coasts and lake edges. Wales – Amber listed.

There were widespread records of breeding but few systematic counts. GWENT: Nests or fledged young found on the Rhymney, Sirhowy, Ebbw and the Usk, with birds seen on several Usk tributaries including the Cas Troggy Brook, River Ciydach and Afon Lwyd, and

on many minor watercourses. Records from 13 sites on the Afon Honddu and along the River Monnow from Monmouth upriver to the county border; most reports of pairs on territory and subsequently rearing young. In the east, three nesting pairs along the Angidy near Tintern, three on the River Trothy near Monmouth and two on the Whitebrook. Some 75 nestlings were ringed on these watercourses and 21 full-grown birds were caught; GOWER: A detailed survey of the R Afan between Port Talbot and Blaengwynfi confirmed 15 pairs bred with a further 3 pairs as probable; CARMARTHEN: 12 of 25 nests monitored were successful, with 4 confirmed failures and the rest outcome unknown; BRECON: Recorded at 15 sites during the breeding season; MEIRIONNYDD: 7-8 pairs on Afon Alwen between Corwen and Llanfihangel Glyn Myfyr, 8-9 pairs around Llyn Tegid and its feeder streams and rivers; CAERNARFON: Widespread breeding records, the furthest west in Llŷn on Afon Erch; ANGLESEY: One was at Llangefni Dingle on 10th Feb, two on 1st March and a juvenile was being fed on 30th April; one also seen on 14th Nov. One was also on the stream at Pentraeth on 20th Sept.

RING OUZEL *Turdus torquatus*

MWYALCHEN Y MYNYDD

(B) Summer visitor breeding in the uplands in decreasing numbers; passage migrant. Wales – Red listed.

The species has declined in many areas during the last two decades, but numbers may be more stable on the higher ground of Snowdonia. Records of breeding or possible breeding were: GWENT: A pair on Mynydd Llangynidr on 31st July may have been birds that bred in the region, as they were some two months early for typical autumn passage; CARMARTHEN: A pair at Pâl y Cwrt on 11th April was the only record; BRECON: No proof of breeding at Craig Cerrig Gleisiad, Craig Cwmdu, Mynydd Llangynidr or Parc Bach but song in May and alarm calls by adults in June and July suggested chicks were present; RADNOR: Four singing birds at 3 sites; MEIRIONNYDD: A minimum of 30 territories, including 15 territories found in the Aran range; CAERNARFON: Many records of pairs or singing males, with six probable or confirmed breeding records; DENBIGH: A pair at Llyn Lluncaws, Berwyn Mountains, on 23rd May may well have been breeding there.

Passage and wintering records were: GWENT: The only spring records were two birds sighted at Trefil on 27th and 29th March. Four migrants were at Peterstone Wentlooge on 27th Sept, while one at Garn Lakes on 12th Oct arrived with some of the autumn's first Redwings; E. GLAMORGAN: First record 5th March in the Llynfi valley, last record 4 at Pontcymmer on 18th Nov. The highest count was 9 at Mynydd Bach, Maesteg, on 20th Oct; GOWER: One at Pont-y-Cob, Gowerton, on 2nd Dec; PEMBROKE: 1-2 birds recorded on the islands and at coastal sites from 29th March to 19th Nov; CEREDIGION: Only four records, one on 15th March at Wallog and three singles in autumn; BRECON: Recorded from 18th March. At least 32 birds recorded in autumn, max up to 8 regularly crossing the River Claerwen to feeding sites either side of the Brecon - Radnor boundary below Ciloerwynt Farm on 2nd - 3rd Nov. Last record a juvenile male with Fieldfares at Ffrwd Wen, Epynt, on 23rd Nov; RADNOR: First record 3 at Harley Dingle on 28th March. Max up to 14 in the Elan Valley in Oct, 12+ here on 3rd Nov and the last on 22nd Nov; MONTGOMERY: Just 3 passage records of 2 birds at Lake Vyrnwy on 9th April and one there on 24th Oct,

plus a bird near Llyn Hir on 17th April; MEIRIONNYDD: recorded from 27th March to 14th Oct; CAERNARFON: Recorded from 29th March to 16th Nov. On Bardsey birds were present from 6th Sept to 4th Nov, with a high count of at least 26 birds on 14th Oct. Late records included an interesting record of one on 5th - 6th Nov in Nant Ffrancon, where several birds were later found wintering in January 2015; ANGLESEY: One at South Stack on 31st March, 1-2 at 2 sites between 8th and 30th Oct; DENBIGH: Earliest record at World's End, Ruabon Mountain on 11th March, with a further 7 spring records and two autumn records, last 22nd Oct; FLINT: 6 records, all in spring. The earliest was 2 males at Penycloddiau on 23rd March, max 5 at Nant Coed-y-mynydd on 25th March.

BLACKBIRD *Turdus merula*

MWYALCHEN

(D) Abundant breeding resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

BBS results show a 38% increase in Wales between 1995 and 2013. In GWENT, just 9 out of 41 nests monitored in the Brynithel area and Priory Wood, Usk, fledged young.

FIELDFARE *Turdus pilaris*

SOCAN EIRA

(C) A winter visitor and passage migrant in variable numbers. Wales – Amber listed.

Table of latest and earliest reports in each county:

	Latest	Site	Earliest	Site
GWENT	9 th April	Llandegfedd Res	17 th Oct	Goldcliff
E. GLAMORGAN	31 st March	Kenfig River	23 rd Oct	Pant-yr-Awel
GOWER	31 st March	Kenfig River	2 nd Nov	Rhossili Down
PEMBROKE	20 th March	Frenni Fawr	27 th Oct	Slebech
CEREDIGION	23 rd March		11 th Oct	
BRECON	24 th March	Allt-yr-Esgair	16 th Oct	Mynydd Llangynidr
RADNOR			20 th Oct	3 sites
MONTGOMERY	9 th April	Lake Vyrnwy	19 th Oct	Dolydd Hafren
MEIRIONNYDD	3 rd April	Hafod Uchel, Berwyn	29 th Oct	Llidiart Quarry, Carrog
CAERNARFON	11 th April	Bardsey	14 th Oct	Bardsey
ANGLESEY	10 th March	Malltraeth Marsh	31 st Oct	Silver Bay
DENBIGH	1 st April	Penycae, Trefechan	17 th Sept	Garth, Trevor Hall
FLINT	30 th March	Bagillt	29 th Oct	Rhuddlan

The highest counts (100+) in the first winter period were: GWENT: 142 at Newport WR on 19th Feb and 120 near Trostre on 24th March; E. GLAMORGAN: 120 at Pant-yr-Awel on 7th Feb; CARMARTHEN: c.100 at Pâl y Cwrt on 8th Jan; BRECON: 200 at Lower Neuadd Reservoir on 4th Feb and 100 near Llanwrthwl on 21st March; MONTGOMERY: 150+ at Cwmderwen on 13th March, 100+ at Lake Vyrnwy on 21st March and 100 at Dolydd Hafren on 22nd Jan; CAERNARFON: 100 at Bangor on 4th April; DENBIGH: 600 at Trevalyn Meadows on 2nd Jan and 1,400 moving north at Penycae on 26th Feb with 700 heading north there the next day.

In the second winter period: GWENT: A major movement at Peterstone Wentlooge in mid-November, with 1,294 on 15th, 4,610 on 16th and 250 on 17th. Numbers were much lower thereafter, apart from 200 at Goldcliff Lagoons on 27th Nov and 7th Dec; E. GLAMORGAN: 150+ in Oct at Caerlan Farm, Penrhiwfer, 137 at Kenfig NNR on 9th Nov and 106 at Sker House on 30th Dec; CARMARTHEN: c.350 at Pâl y Cwrt on 5th Nov with 160 still there on 12th; CEREDIGION: 120+ near Aberystwyth; BRECON: In Nov counts of 300 in the upper Senni valley, 100 on Mynydd Illtyd, 250 at Crai Reservoir, 130 on Mynydd Bwlch-y-groes on the Epynt, 100 at Lower Neuadd Reservoir and 200 in Cwm Claifer; MONTGOMERY: 125 near Llyn Clywedog on 7th Nov; CAERNARFON: 250 in Nant Ffrancon on 5th Dec.

SONG THRUSH *Turdus philomelos*

BRONFRAITH

(D) A widely distributed and fairly common resident, formerly abundant. Increasing. Winter visitor and passage migrant. Wales – Amber listed.

The population in Wales appears to be stable, with BBS trends showing an 8% increase between 1995 and 2013. Large counts (20+) and other notable records were: GWENT: Monitoring in the Brynithel area and at Priory Wood, Usk, revealed that only 9 out of 29 nests fledged young; E. GLAMORGAN: In the autumn and second winter period, counts included 20 at Parc Slip NR, 25 on Radyr Floodplain and 32 at Bedwas; GOWER: 25 at Mewslade Valley on 15th Nov; PEMBROKE: 62 birds were on Skokholm on 18th Nov, 30 on Skomer on 11th Oct and a single on Grassholm on 14th Oct; MONTGOMERY: 31 at Dolydd Hafren on 19th Oct; CAERNARFON: Max 38 on Bardsey in Oct, 20 at Morfa Abererch on 1st Nov; DENBIGH: 40 at RSPB Conwy on 1st Nov.

REDWING *Turdus iliacus*

COCH DAN-ADAIN

(C) An abundant winter visitor and passage migrant; particularly numerous in severe winters. Wales – Amber listed.

Table of latest and earliest reports in each county:

	Latest	Site	Earliest	Site
GWENT	4 th April	Peterstone Gout	29 th Sept	Peterstone Wentlooge
E. GLAMORGAN	13 th April	Coed Cefn-fforest	5 th Oct	Craig-y-Llyn
GOWER	17 th March	Clyne Woods	15 th Oct	4 sites
CARMARTHEN	4 th April	Carmel	15 th Oct	Gweunydd Cochion
PEMBROKE	28 th May	Skokholm	9 th Oct	Skokholm
CEREDIGION	3 rd April		14 th Oct	
BRECON	18 th April	Traeth Mawr	14 th Oct	Llangasty and 3 other sites
RADNOR			29 th Sept	Elan Valley
MONTGOMERY	25 th April	Lake Vyrnwy	8 th Oct	Dolydd Hafren
MEIRIONYDD	3/4 th April	Penrhyndeudraeth	14 th Oct	Rhiwbryfdir & Wenallt Fawr
CAERNARFON	10 th April	Nant Ffrancon & Bardsey	13 th Sept	Rhyd-y-clafdy
ANGLESEY	3 rd April	Cors Bodeilio	14 th Oct	South Stack
DENBIGH	4 th April	RSPB Conwy	14 th Oct	Wenallt
FLINT	28 th March	Bagillt	12 th Oct	Sychdyn

The highest counts (150+) in the first winter period were: GWENT: 200 at Peterstone Wentlooge on 31st Jan and 200 at Newport WR on 2nd Feb; E. GLAMORGAN: 200 at Pontcanna Fields on 23rd Jan, 200+ at Cwm Cothi on 27th Jan and 203 at Cardiff Riding School on 1st March; CARMARTHEN: c.150 at Llanfynydd on 24th Feb; CAERNARFON: 180 near Bangor on 14th Jan and 250 near Treborth on 21st Jan.

In the second winter period: GWENT: A total of 292 over Peterstone Wentlooge on 2nd Nov, 300 on 9th Nov, 1,501 on 15th and 845 on 16th, while 159 were at Newport WR on 13th Nov; E. GLAMORGAN: 1,000 at Lavernock Point on 15th Oct and 200+ at Penarth Head on 16th Nov; GOWER: c.350 over-flying Taibach on 30th Oct; PEMBROKE: 500 at Slebech on 27th Oct and 200 at Burnett's Hill on 28th Oct; CEREDIGION: 150 at Cross Inn Forest, on 28th Oct; BRECON: 200 at Siwch Tump, on 27th Dec; RADNOR: 1,200 south in two hours at Llyn Heilyn on 15th Oct and 3,000 flew south over Radnor Forest in an hour on 16th Oct; MONTGOMERY: 200 at Dolydd Hafren on 14th Dec and 200 at Trewern on 29th Dec; MEIRIONNYDD: 400 at Rhyd Uchaf on 15th Oct; CAERNARFON: 593 on Bardsey on 14th Oct, many 100s heard flying over Llandudno and Llandudno Junction from 28th to 31st Oct and 300 near Tŷ Hyll on 22nd Dec; ANGLESEY: 506 on 14th Oct at South Stack; DENBIGH: 260 at Penycae moving south on 16th Oct

MISTLE THRUSH *Turdus viscivorus*

BRYCH Y COED

(C) A fairly common resident; many young birds emigrate in their first autumn.

BBS trends show a 9% decrease in Wales between 1995 and 2013 but a 21% increase between 2013 and 2014. Large flocks (25+) were: GWENT: A post-breeding flock of 38 was at Hafod Farm, Brynmawr, on 28th Aug; E. GLAMORGAN: 30 at Llanilid on 21st Aug; CEREDIGION: 25 at Nant Yr Arian on 24th Sept and 40 at Cwmystwyth on 4th Oct; BRECON: 50 at Penwyllt on 26th July, 40 at Gamrhiw on 28th Sept and 50 there on 2nd Oct, 35 south of Glasbury on 7th Oct, and 25 at Ffordd Fawr on 14th; MONTGOMERY/ MEIRIONNYDD: 28 heading out of Lake Vyrnwy on 29th July over the border into Meirionnydd; CAERNARFON: 50 at Caerhun on 25th Sept, 30 above Llanfairfechan on 17th June, 25 at Bangor on 21st Jan, 25 at Hafod Owen, Nant Gwynant, on 15th Sept; DENBIGH: 30 flew NW over Penycae on 27th Aug.

SPOTTED FLYCATCHER *Muscicapa striata*

GWYBEDOG MANNOG

(C) Once a common summer visitor, now appears to be declining; passage migrant, May and August / September. Wales – Red listed.

Table of earliest and latest reports in each county

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	Earliest	Site	Latest	Site
GWENT	13 th May	NWR Uskmouth	26 th Sept	Penallt
E. GLAMORGAN	1 st May	Rudry Common	29 th Sept	Lavernock Point
GOWER	10 th May	Cwm Du Glen, Pontardawe	29 th Sept	
CARMARTHEN	14 th May	Dinas	9 th July	Cilsan Bridge
PEMBROKE	8 th May	Skokholm	5 th Oct	Skokholm
CEREDIGION	4 th May	Ynys-hir	21 st Sept	Cors Caron
BRECON	13 th May	Afon Tarell, Rhydywernen Farm	9 th Sept	Llangorse Common
RADNOR	9 th May	Glasbury & New Radnor	12 th Sept	Cwmbach
MONTGOMERY	8 th May	Llyn Coed y Dinas	17 th Sept	Welshpool
MEIRIONNYDD	17 th May	Coed Crafnant	18 th Aug	Groeslwyd
CAERNARFON	3 rd May	Pensychnant	27 th Sept	Bardsey
ANGLESEY	8 th May	Penrhos CP	15 th Sept	South Stack
DENBIGH	15 th April	Rhewl	2 nd Sept	Mynydd Glyn
FLINTS	18 th May	Rhydymwyn	31 st Aug	Connah's Quay

BBS trends are not available for Wales, but trends for the UK show a 47% decrease between 1995 and 2013. GWENT: A continued decline, with reports from only 21 locations (against 25 in 2013). Breeding was sparsely reported. In the lower Monnow valley, a pair bred at Osbaston and another at Brooksholm, a nest with chicks was found at Pantygelli and two pairs with recently fledged young were on Ysgyryd Fach in July, with a third pair with young there in Aug. Birds were seen in the breeding season at another 7 sites; E. GLAMORGAN: Only one confirmed breeding record but three other probable breeding records; GOWER: Bred at Lower Lliw Res, Graig Goch and Hawdref Fawr, probably bred at Crynant and present at a further 5 sites; PEMBROKE: The largest autumn concentrations of birds were 18 on Skomer on 14th Sept and 19 there the next day, 10 at Ty Canol on 23rd Aug and on Skokholm on 18th Sept. Three pairs nested at Llanychaer; CARMARTHEN: A pair at Cilsan Bridge in the breeding season; CEREDIGION: Breeding records came from 11 sites; BRECON: 32 pairs or family parties located between May and mid-Aug, 10 at Llanhamlach churchyard on 4th Sept; RADNOR: Poor numbers found and absent from some usual sites; MONTGOMERY: Scattered breeding records, with some evidence of two broods; MEIRIONNYDD: Recorded at 9 sites, with confirmed breeding at three of these; CAERNARFON: On Bardsey, spring passage peaked at 284 on 15th May, the second highest ever total here; DENBIGH: 9 confirmed breeding records; FLINT: One confirmed breeding record.

ROBIN *Erithacus rubecula*

ROBIN GOCH

(D) A common and widespread resident in all counties and a passage migrant.

BBS trends show a 9% decrease in Wales between 1995 and 2013, but a 12% increase between 2013 and 2014. Counts of 50+ were: E. GLAMORGAN: 52 in the Cardiff Bay area on 9th Nov; PEMBROKE: 128 on Skokholm on 28th Oct and 101 on Skomer on 11th Oct; CAERNARFON: Max 77 on Bardsey in Oct.

NIGHTINGALE *Luscinia megarhynchos*

EOS

(A) Scarce vagrant, on WRP list

One was recorded on Bardsey CAERNARFON on 2nd and 4th May, with another caught here on 7th Sept.

RED-BREASTED FLYCATCHER *Ficedula parva*

GWYBEDOG BRONGOCH

(A) Rare vagrant, on WRP list.

The only accepted records were: PEMBROKE: A first winter bird on Skomer on 19th Sept and a total of four 1st winter birds on Skokholm, one on 23rd - 26th Sept, another 25th - 29th, a different bird on 29th and one on 16th Nov; CAERNARFON: Singles on Bardsey on 12th Sept, 29th Oct and 2nd Nov, with the only mainland record a 1st winter bird at Uwchmynydd on 24th – 25th Oct.

PIED FLYCATCHER *Ficedula hypoleuca*

GWYBEDOG BRITH

(C) A common summer visitor in suitable habitat in some mainland counties, but a rare breeding bird on Anglesey. Now declining. Wales – Red listed.

No BBS trends are available for this species, but the results of the 2007-11 BTO Atlas show a decline in relative abundance almost everywhere in Wales compared to 1988-91. Table of earliest and latest reports in each county:

	Earliest	Site	Latest	Site
GWENT	1 st April	Glan-y-nant, Bargoed	5 th Aug	Hafod Farm
E. GLAMORGAN	17 th April	Nant Cwm Gwyn, Maesteg	4 th Sept	Parc Slip
GOWER			26 th July	Staffal Haegr
CARMARTHEN	11 th April	Pentre Felin	7 th July	Pembrey
PEMBROKE	16 th April	Ffynone Wood	28 th Sept	Skokholm
CEREDIGION	3 rd April	Ynys-hir	21 st Sept	Ynys-hir
BRECON	11 th April	The Cwm	27 th July	The Cwm
RADNOR	4 th April	Cilcenni	12 th Sept	Brynwern Bridge
MONTGOMERY	3 rd April	Llanerfyl	10 th Aug	Lake Vyrnwy
MEIRIONNYDD	12 th April	Groeslwyd	5 th Sept	Coed Camlyn
CAERNARFON	8 th April	Coedydd Aber	2 nd Oct	Bardsey
DENBIGH	11 th April	Llangollen	1 st July	Prion
FLINT	29 th April	Penycloddiau	15 th July	Ffrith Mountain

Breeding season: GWENT: During May, singing birds were found at Upper Llanover and Llanelly, with 6 in St Mary's Vale on 12th. In the second half of May, 15 were near Cwm Mawr; 16 near New Inn and 12 near Dan-y-graig. At Penallt, a pair raised a brood in Old Church Wood and Strawberry Wood held three pairs, all of which fledged young. There was a count of 14 birds at Glan-y-nant on 6th June. Elsewhere, a brood was ringed on The Bloreng, two broods were ringed at Cwmyoy and five at Llanellen; E. GLAMORGAN: No

confirmed breeding, but pairs reported in the breeding season at Cwm Nant Gwyn (Maesteg) and at Bridgend Paper Mills; GOWER: At Cwm Clydach study area, 23 pairs laid eggs (cf 21 pairs in 2013), of these 21 pairs fledged 120 young - 5.2 per box (cf 5.0/ box in 2013). Although productivity was good this year, pairs returning to breed remain low compared to pre-2013; CARMARTHEN: 7 pairs bred in nest boxes at Abbey Woods, Whitland and two pairs bred at Nant-y-garreg Farm, north of Cwmdud. The average number of young reared per successful nest in a nest box scheme at Cynghordy was 5.8; PEMBROKE: Seen in the breeding season at Pengelli, Llanychaer, Gwaun Valley and Ffynone Wood, where the only nest was predated; BRECON: Territorial pairs were widespread e.g. six singing males in Cnwch Wood, two at Craig-y-nos and another 19 territories at 17 other sites but the only confirmed breeding records were of 15 occupied nest-boxes at Cwm Claisfer and two boxes at Craiglyn; RADNOR: A further reduction in breeding numbers at some sites and generally a poor breeding season; MONTGOMERY: At Lake Vyrnwy, there were 90 nests, more than in 2013 and these produced more young than the previous year; MEIRIONNYDD: Breeding season records from at least 23 sites. 56 nest boxes were occupied at Coed Crafnant, 377 eggs laid and 312 young fledged. The boxes at Coed Gwern, Pantperthog had 9 nests in boxes fledging 4.3 per nesting attempt; CAERNARFON: Bred at 7+ sites with 156 nestlings ringed SW of Rowen. At Coedydd Aber, birds laid in 15 boxes, 5 fewer than last year; DENBIGH: Bred at 11 sites: Bronygarth, Cribin at Eglwyseg, Prion, Glyn Arthur, Llwynmawr, Pandy, Llewesog Hall, Dinbren Isaf, Llangollen area, Coed Nantddu and Coed y Felin. There were 118 nesting attempts at the last eight sites with 634 young fledging; FLINT: Two confirmed breeding records: nestlings ringed at Hendre and a female feeding a fledgling at Ffrith Mountain.

BLACK REDSTART *Phoenicurus ochruros*

TINGOCH DU

(C) Spring and autumn passage migrant. Winter visitor in small numbers. Wales – Amber listed.

The numbers wintering in Wales appear to be fairly stable, with birds often using traditional sites. A pair breeding is still quite an unusual event. Breakdown of number of birds (minima) by month for each county:

	J	F	M	A	M	Jul	S	O	N	D
GWENT	1								2	1
E. GLAMORGAN	3							1+	8+	7+
GOWER	2	1						3	7	2
CARMARTHEN			1						3	
PEMBROKE			1		1				6	
Skomer			2	1	2			3	3	
Skokholm			3		1	1		4	3	
Ramsey				3			1+		3	
CEREDIGION	4	4	4					2	8	3
BRECON									2	
RADNOR								1	4	1

CAERNARFON	1		2		1		1	6	2
Bardsey			2	2			5	2	
ANGLESEY	1		2					3	
DENBIGH								2	
FLINT		1							

E GLAMORGAN: Most reports from Penarth Marina/Cardiff Bay Barrage but birds seen at five other locations.; PEMBROKE: One was on Skokholm on the unusual date of 3rd July.

2013: In BRECON a pair fed a chick on 9th July at the same Beacons site where successful breeding occurred in years 2010 and 2011. A single male sang there in 2012 but no evidence of breeding that year.

REDSTART *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

TINGOCH

(C) A numerous breeding species in deciduous woodland and ffridd in many parts of upland Wales. Locally common elsewhere; scarce on Anglesey and Pembroke. Wales – Amber listed.

BBS trends for Wales show a 48% increase between 1995 and 2013 and a 26% increase between 2013 and 2014. Table of earliest and latest reports in each county:

	Earliest	Site	Latest	Site
GWENT	4 th April	Boat Lane	4 th Nov	Llangybi
E. GLAMORGAN	11 th April	Bargoed	22 nd Sept	Cardiff Bay WR
GOWER	13 th April	Glyn Gwilym Melincourt	12 th Sept	Margam railway sidings
CARMARTHEN	25 th March	Nat. Botanic Gardens	11 th Sept	Pâl y Cwrt
PEMBROKE	17 th April	Skokholm	21 st Sept	Skokholm
CEREDIGION	8 th April	Trisant	28 th Sept	Ynys-hir
BRECON	9 th April	Llanerch Cawr	5 th Oct	The Cwm
RADNOR	3 rd April	Caban Lakeside & Cilcenni Dingle	13 th Sept	Presteigne
MONTGOMERY	2 nd April	Lake Vyrnwy	9 th Nov	Dolydd Hafren
MEIRIONNYDD	12 th April	Groeslwyd	8 th Sept	Llyn Trawsfynydd
CAERNARFON	10 th April	Rowlyn Isaf	19 th Sept	Bardsey
ANGLESEY	18 th April	Cemlyn	8 th June	Cemlyn
DENBIGH	10 th April	Eglwyseg	5 th Sept	Bronbannog, Clocaenog Forest
FLINT	16 th April	Penycloddiau	26 th Oct	Connah's Quay NR

Of 21 nests monitored in the NE of CARMARTHEN, 17 were successful, raising an average of 5.5 young.

WHINCHAT *Saxicola rubetra***CREC YR EITHIN**

(C) Summer breeding visitor; now predominantly a species of upland areas.

No BBS trends are available for Wales, but the species appears still to be declining, at least in some areas. Table of earliest and latest reports in each county:

	Earliest	Site	Latest	Site
GWENT	24 th April	The Blorengae	27 th Sept	West Pill
E. GLAMORGAN	20 th April	Cefn Cadlan and Flatholm	25 th Sept	Kenfig
GOWER	1 st May	Margam / Morfa Bach	7 th Oct	
CARMARTHEN	19 th April	Pembrey Burrows	21 st Sept	Kidwelly
PEMBROKE	29 th April	Mere Valley, Bosherton	2 nd Nov	Skokholm
CEREDIGION	16 th April	Tanybwlich	11 th Oct	Teifi Marshes
BRECON	11 th April	Craig Cerrig Gleisiad	6 th Oct	Pontbren-ddu
RADNOR	21 st April	Begwyns	24 th Sept	Boughrood
MONTGOMERY	2 nd April	Lake Vyrnwy	7 th Sept	Dolydd Hafren
MEIRIONNYDD	16 th April	Wayfarer track, Llandrillo	20 th Sept	Llynnau Cregennan
CAERNARFON	11 th April	Traeth Crugan	31 st Oct	Bardsey
ANGLESEY	24 th April	Cemlyn	13 th Sept	Breakwater CP
DENBIGH	24 th April	Bryneglwys	1 st Sept	Moel Arthur
FLINT	23 rd April	Gronant	4 th Sept	Rhyl

GWENT: Systematic effort located 36 broods on the Blorengae, Mynydd Garn Clochdy and Mynydd Garn Fawr, showing that breeding is greatly under-recorded by casual observation. There was a party of eight at Hafod Farm on 28th July. Peak count of migrants was 10 at Collister Pill on 31st Aug; E. GLAMORGAN: No confirmed breeding but possible at six sites; GOWER: 2-3 pairs bred at Cwm Nant y Fedw/ Gelli Farm; CARMARTHEN: One pair bred at Cynnant and four pairs present at Mynydd Pencarreg; PEMBROKE: The only breeding season records came from Brynberian Moor and a male was seen at Llethrmawr, Preseli, on 4th May; CEREDIGION: 18 in a 1km square near Llanddewi Brefi, 12 males in Cwm Doethie and five males at Cwm Twrch; BRECON: 63 territories located, with 17 at RSPB Carngafallt, seven at Cefn Moel/pt Mynydd Llangorse, six at Cefn Cul (SN8518), three each at Esgaer Lrfon, in Rhiwnant valley, at Craig Cerrig Gleisiad and Craig Cwmdy; RADNOR: Sample breeding surveys found numbers stable or slightly increasing; MONTGOMERY: Reported from 5 potential breeding sites; MEIRIONNYDD: Up to six singing on approx 50 ha of moorland S & SW of Llyn Tanygrisiau on 6th May with at least 1 juv being seen here on 30th July; CAERNARFON: Widespread records with proof of breeding for five pairs. 4 singing males on a 52 hectare survey site above Llynnau Mymbyr on 5th June; DENBIGH: Two confirmed breeding records and probable elsewhere as on Mynydd Hiraethog; FLINT: No confirmed breeding.

STONECHAT *Saxicola torquatus***CLOCHDAR Y CERRIG**

(C) Breeding resident, locally common in coastal areas and spreading inland.

BBS trends for Wales show a 73% increase between 1995 and 2013, and a 93% increase between 2013 and 2014 as the population recovered rapidly from the effects of two severe

winters. Breeding records and large counts included: GWENT Surprisingly, there were no coastal records during the breeding season. Inland, there were 8 confirmed breeding records, with a further 8 of possible breeding; E. GLAMORGAN: Breeding was confirmed at 12 sites and probable or possible at another 28. Autumn counts of 30 at Kenfig NNR and 20 at Sker; GOWER: 85 pairs recorded at 59 localities, with present/ probably bred records indicating a further 50 prs from 25 localities. Max 15 (all juv) at Mewslade on 19th Aug; CARMARTHEN: Bred at 17 sites; PEMBROKE: Apparently a good breeding season with highest counts 16 at Manorbier on 25th May and 15 at Pencarnan on 17th Sept. A pair bred on Skomer for the first time since 2007; CEREDIGION: Widespread breeder along the coast and inland; BRECON: 60 territories located from late-March to mid-August and some of the earliest pairs produced two broods; RADNOR: A continued increase in breeding numbers but still not back to 2009 levels in some places. Spring passage in March and early April has become much more noticeable in last few years; MEIRIONNYDD: Recorded at 36 sites; CAERNARFON: Numbers have recovered from the two poor previous years, though still not quite up to the 2009 level. Pairs and family groups seen at 30+ sites on the coast and in the uplands, max 12 on the Great Orme; ANGLESEY: One pair bred at RSPB Valley Wetlands, nine territorial pairs at South Stack, two pairs bred in Crigyll Dunes and three at Cemlyn. 10 birds between Cemlyn and Cestyll on 25th Oct; DENBIGH: 11 records of probable breeding from Ruabon Mountain and the Horseshoe Pass but only two records of confirmed breeding, at Moel y Waun and at Rhydtalog; FLINT: Records of confirmed breeding at Penycloddiau, Point of Ayr, Talacre dunes, Garth, Cilcain and Gronant.

WHEATEAR *Oenanthe oenanthe*

TINWEN Y GARN

(C) Summer visitor and passage migrant. Locally common, favouring upland areas with sheep-grazed turf. Wales – Amber listed.

Table of earliest and latest reports in each county:

	Earliest	Site	Latest	Site
GWENT	17 th March	Trefil	19 th Oct	NWR & Peterstone Wentlooge
E. GLAMORGAN	10 th March	Llwynypia		
GOWER	10 th March	Crofty	16 th Nov	Rhossili Cliffs
CARMARTHEN	16 th March	Mynydd Du	12 th Oct	Carn Pen-y-clogau, Mynydd Du
PEMBROKE	9 th March	Skokhom	4 th Nov	West Angle
CEREDIGION	11 th March	Tanybwllch	3 rd Nov	Ynyslas
BRECON	12 th March	Ystrad Quarry	21 st Oct	Mynydd Illtyd
RADNOR	12 th March	Begwyns	1 st Nov	Pont ar Elan
MONTGOMERY	22 nd March	Dolydd Hafren	9 th Nov	Llyn Hir
MEIRIONNYDD	13 th March	Pont Croesor	8 th Oct	Pont Tai Hirion, Migneint
CAERNARFON	3 rd March	Aber Falls	17 th Oct	Pensychnant
ANGLESEY	10 th March	South Stack	16 th Oct	South Stack
DENBIGH	17 th March	Bryneglwys	20 th Oct	Towyn
FLINT	15 th March	Flint	8 th Oct	Talacre

BBS trends show a 9% decline in Wales between 1995 and 2013. This is not statistically

significant, but some concern has been expressed about the species in recent years. Breeding records and large passage counts included: GWENT: Evidence of breeding was again very sparse. An occupied nest on Mynyddislwyn on 27th May and a family group on Mynydd Llangatwg on 28th June, with possible breeding at Abertyswg, Sugar Loaf and Mynydd Llangynidr; E. GLAMORGAN: 3 confirmed breeding reports, and pairs in suitable habitat at another 5 sites; GOWER: Bred at 10 sites and probably bred at another three; PEMBROKE: Max spring count 85 on the Marloes peninsula on 21st April. Largest autumn count was of 36 on Skomer on 15th Sept. 59 pairs nested on Ramsey, down from 107 in 2013, 13 pairs on Skokholm and 15 pairs on Skomer; BRECON: 7 territorial males were noted in the Beacons encompassing Pen Milan and Allt Ddu, 11 territories on the northern and western rims of Ystrad Quarry, eight along the Rhiwnant valley and three at Nantystalwyn on the west side of Abergwesyn Common. The species is thought to be in continuing decline in the county; RADNOR: A further decline in breeding numbers at most sites; MEIRIONNYDD: Recorded at 21 likely breeding sites; CAERNARFON: Widespread records in the uplands between April and July, including 12 pairs holding territory on Foel Fras and five pairs around Ffynnon Lloer; 22 birds in Nant Ffrancon and up to 36 on a 65 ha site on Moel Faban probably represented 20-25 territories, including many pairs, with nest-building seen; 11 birds on 40 ha at Betws Garmon, 36 birds on 74 ha at Llyn Ffynhonnau, 21 on 52 ha at the Ricks and Racks near Llynnau Mymbyr and 20 on 48 ha at Cors Gwaen-y-gwail. On the coast, possible territories at Bychestyn and at Clip-y-gylfinir, Rhiw. On Bardsey, 34 pairs was the highest total for 25 years; DENBIGH: Two confirmed breeding records, at Llanfihangel Glyn Myfyr and at Cerrigydrudion; FLINT: Records came from the Clwydian Range and the coast during the breeding season, with a pair at Penycloddiau indicating probable breeding.

Birds showing characteristics of the Greenland race *leucorhoa* were:

E. GLAMORGAN: Two at Sker on 14th Sept; GOWER: One at Broughton Bay on 18th Sept and 2 at Whiteford near Cwm Ivy Tor on 19th; CARMARTHEN: A male at Burry Port, on 18th May and one at Bancffosfelen on 6th Sept; CEREDIGION: A small passage in late April and May at a few coastal locations though no large numbers were reported; BRECON: One at Llan Farm, Llangasty on 2nd Nov; MONTGOMERY: Singles at Llyn Hir on 17th April, 9th Nov and 30th Nov and at Cwmdrwen on 23rd April; MEIRIONNYDD: A male on the Gelli Grin track, Cwm Hirnant on 24th April; CAERNARFON: 13 at Porthdinllaen on 6th May were thought to be of this race as were many of the birds passing through Bardsey in late April and May e.g. 134 on 15th May. In the autumn, Greenland birds passed through the island from 14th Sept onwards, peaking at 54 on the 19th; ANGLESEY: In May there were many at Cemlyn with max 28 on 15th May; FLINT: One of three birds at Talacre on 8th Oct was probably of this race.

DESERT WHEATEAR *Oenanthe deserti*
(A) Rare vagrant, on BBRC list.

TINWEN Y DIFFAETHWCH

One on Skomer on 28th Oct was the fourth record for PEMBROKE.

DUNNOCK *Prunella modularis***LLWYD Y GWRYCH**

(D) Abundant breeding resident. Passage migrant and possible winter visitor in small numbers.

BBS trends show a 28% increase in Wales between 1995 and 2013. There were 17 territories on Ramsey PEMBROKE.

HOUSE SPARROW *Passer domesticus***ADERYN Y TO**

(C) Resident, breeding throughout Wales in all counties. Not ubiquitous, however, and absent from many upland settlements. Wales – Amber listed.

The House Sparrow is doing well in Wales, with BBS trends showing a 92% increase between 1995 and 2013 and a further 15% increase between 2013 and 2014. Large counts (70+) included: E. GLAMORGAN: 80 at Court Rd, Whitchurch, on 2nd and 19th Sept and 6th Oct, 135 at Kenfig NNR on 10th Nov and 85 at Ogmore-by-Sea car park on 20th Nov; GOWER: c.70 at Margam Park on 12th Jan, 120+ there on 26th Oct and c.80 on 8th Nov; PEMBROKE: 111 at Pencarnan Campsite, St. David's, on 24th Dec and 100 at Picton Home Farm on 16th Aug; CEREDIGION: 100 at Ynyslas on 13th Aug; BRECON: 120 roosting in a Pennorth garden on 7th Aug; CAERNARFON: 90+ at Hafod Lane, Bangor, in Nov – Dec, 75 at Bryn Gwynt, Anelog, on 17th Nov; ANGLESEY: 100 were at Llanfaellog on 13th July; DENBIGH: 160 at Towyn on 26th Jan; FLINT: 220 at Rhuddlan on 14th Aug.

On Skomer PEMBROKE a hybrid House x Tree Sparrow was present with a flock of nine House Sparrows on 12th Oct.

TREE SPARROW *Passer montanus***GOLFAN Y MYNYDD**

(C) Breeding resident in small numbers with a patchy distribution. Absent from most western areas. Declining in most areas. Wales – Red listed.

No BBS trends are available for the Tree Sparrow in Wales, but records suggest a continued decline. A summary of all records: GWENT: Records restricted to the western part of the Caldicot Levels with single birds at Goldcliff Point and Saltmarsh grasslands on 31st March and 4th May. Two nests were built at the long-established Porton nestbox colony and the distance between these suggested that two pairs were present. However, only one nest had eggs and the future for this species at this site, or indeed at any other site in the county, grows increasingly uncertain; E. GLAMORGAN: 3 at Parc Slip N.R. on 10th April, one at Brackla on 16th April, one at Cilfynydd on 4th May and one at Lan Farm, Marcross on 29th May; GOWER: One at Swansea Vale on 19th March, the first county record since 2012; CARMARTHEN: 5 at Gelli Aur on 13th March and three at garden feeders in Dryslwyn on 7th Dec; PEMBROKE: Up to two birds in the Treddiog/ Newton Cross area near Hayscastle on 2nd - 4th Jan, two at Trefeiddan on 22nd April and a juvenile at St. David's Head on 15th Sept. A bird on Grassholm on 14th Oct was the second record for the island, the first was one in 2008; BRECON: Two adults at garden feeders near Garthbreny in June, joined by a fledgling from 17th - 20th. One was noted on several

dates in July, then a single from 25th Oct to 17th Dec; RADNOR: Still widespread in small numbers away from the north and west but no flocks of more than 23 seen. Reported from 14 garden feeding sites; MONTGOMERY: Max. 8 were seen on 9 dates at Dolydd Hafren and two sightings of flocks of four birds in the Meifod area on 9th April. There were summer records of birds visiting a Churchstoke garden; CAERNARFON: Singles on Bardsey, on 8th - 12th June and 11th Oct; ANGLESEY: One flew over Ty'n Llan Farm, Cemlyn, on 13th June and one flew west over Cemlynn on 3rd Nov; DENBIGH: Most of the 31 records came from Tallarn Green. Seven pairs were found at Marford, on 8th July; FLINT: All but one Garden BirdWatch records were from Cilcain with a single record at Rhydymwyn. Two were at Bagillt on 2nd Jan and two adults and 51 nestlings were ringed at Sandycroft between 14th May and 23rd July. From 27 breeding attempts at Beeches Farm and Hem House Farm, 71 young fledged. The maximum winter count was a group of six at Holt on 20th Dec.

YELLOW WAGTAIL *Motacilla flava*

SIGLEN FELEN

(B) A summer visitor, now breeding regularly in only four counties. Wales – Red listed.

No BBS trends are available for Wales. Very few confirmed breeding records, and not many of even possible breeding: GWENT: One was seen at Llanllowell on 10th May. Other records included pairs at Llandowlais on 30th Apr, in ST1490 on 25th May, at Llanfair Kilgeddin on 30th May and at Osbaston on 2nd June. There were no confirmed breeding records; CARMARTHEN: An adult with two juveniles on 24th Aug at Pentre-Davis, but there was no evidence that they bred there; BRECON: Although singles/pair were seen at Llangorse Lake in April and May, breeding was not suspected there. A male held territory near Bronllys but no female was evident. A female with four juveniles was upstream of Glasbury from 27th July to 14th Aug; RADNOR: A minimum of 22 pairs found in the two main arable areas in an incomplete survey suggests a further increase. Many young fledged; MONTGOMERY: Breeding was noted at Dolydd Hafren; FLINT: Four pairs bred at Burton Mere wetlands during April to July.

Records of migrants included: GWENT: In the spring there were 11 coastal passage records, the earliest being at Goldcliff Lagoons on 27th March. In autumn, 131 records of passage birds in July - Sept, mainly on the coast. Max counts were 30+ at Goldcliff Lagoons on 29th and 31st Aug, 45 at Peterstone Wentlooge on 23rd Aug and 29 there on 6th Sept; E. GLAMORGAN: Recorded from 17th April, spring max 4 at Sker Pt on 21st April. On return migration, reports from a variety of coastal locations in late Aug and through Sept, max 16 at Sker on 5th - 6th Sept; GOWER: In spring at Kenfig rivermouth on 24th April, 4th and 15th May. Autumn passage (1 - 4) from 10 coastal localities between 23rd Aug and 17th Sept; CARMARTHEN: Recorded only in autumn, 1 - 3 on 4 dates from 24th Aug to 17th Sept; PEMBROKE: Spring records of singles from 10th April to 31st May. In autumn, recorded until 23rd Sept, max 5 on Skomer on 11th Sept; CEREDIGION: In spring, the only record was of one at Ynyslas on 2nd May. In autumn, 1 - 2 on three dates 15th July - 25th Aug; BRECON: Recorded in spring from 21st April to 25th May, and in autumn 1 - 3 on several dates to 23rd Sept; RADNOR: First at Glasbury on 12th April, last at Llowlowes on 2nd Oct; MONTGOMERY: Recorded from 13th April to 31st Aug. A count of 16 at Dolydd Hafren on 16th Aug was an excellent number for what is now a relatively scarce species in the

county; CAERNARFON: Recorded from 19th April to 27th May, then from 21st July to 14th Nov, max 3 on Bardsey on 21st July; ANGLESEY: Recorded from 23rd April to 16th June, with max count of 5 at Cemlyn on 15th May. In autumn, singles between 6th Aug and 11th Sept; DENBIGH: Recorded from 5th April. A single near Llangwm on 14th Aug was the only autumn record; FLINT: Recorded from 24th April to 26th Sept. The highest count was of 15 at Talacre on 26th April.

Records of races included:

M. f. flava - Blue-headed Wagtail

SIGLEN BENIAS

PEMBROKE: A male was seen on Skokholm on 3rd May and one on Skomer on 19th May; CEREDIGION: One at Llanrhystud on 28th April; BRECON: One was at SCM Llangorse on 4th Sept.; CAERNARFON: There were singles on Bardsey, on 12th and 26th May and one on the Great Orme on 15th May. On return migration, there were two on Bardsey on 15th Sept; ANGLESEY: At Cemlyn a male foraged around sheep and cattle near Tyn Llan farm between 5th and 7th May; another male was seen on 13th June.

CITRINE WAGTAIL

Motacilla citreola

SIGLEN SITRAIDD

(A) *Rare vagrant, on BBRC list.*

A first-year female was recorded on Bardsey CAERNARFON on 25th - 26th May and a juvenile here on 8th - 11th Aug. These are the second and third records for the island, with the juvenile also the third-earliest autumn record for the U.K.

GREY WAGTAIL *Motacilla cinerea*

SIGLEN LWYD

(C) *Locally common breeding resident, mainly along fast-flowing streams in all mainland counties of Wales. Increasing but very scarce on Anglesey. Most move away from hills in the autumn and either emigrate or frequent sites on lower ground.*

No BBS trends are available for Wales, but the population is probably fairly stable, though the BTO Atlases show a decrease in relative abundance over most of Wales between 1988-91 and 2007-11. Counts of 15+ were: GWENT: At Peterstone, max numbers were 31 on 4th Sept and 34 on 13th Sept; E. GLAMORGAN: 15 in Cardiff Bay in both Sept and Oct; BRECON: 15, mainly juvs, near Millbank on the Usk on 13th Aug; CAERNARFON: Autumn passage on Bardsey peaked at 54 on 28th Sept.

PIED WAGTAIL *M. alba*

SIGLEN FRAITH

(C) *A common and widespread breeding resident in many habitats. Autumn passage migrant and winter visitor. The continental race, White Wagtail, M.a. alba, is a regular passage migrant, occasionally breeding.*

BBS trends show a decline of just 1% in Wales between 1995 and 2013, but a 24% increase between 2013 and 2014. Large counts (75+) of Pied Wagtails were: GWENT: 130 over Peterstone Wentlooge on 27th Sept and 187 there on the 28th; E. GLAMORGAN: 95 near the NRW Offices in St Mellons on 14th Feb and over 200 at Leckwith Common on 18th Nov; GOWER: Max roosts were 100+ on the Tesco store roof at Neath Abbey on 17th Feb and a regular roost at Castell-du Waungron Jan, March and Aug-Sept with 250 on 14th Sept; CEREDIGION: 150 flying towards Plas Crug, Aberystwyth on 27th Feb, presumably heading to a roost. A mixed flock of 100 Pied and White wagtails flew in to roost at Teifi marshes on 29th March; BRECON: 140 fed on the filtration beds at Brecon STW on 8th Jan. A spring roost of 80 was found on the western edge of Blaenbrynich Wood on 18th April. Autumn flocks were larger than usual, with 75 at Penlan playing-fields on 19th Sept. The roost at Llangorse Lake increased in late autumn with 150 - 200 going to roost in the hide reedbed on 2nd - 3rd Nov. In the second winter period, Brecon STW attracted 90 on 6th Dec and 75 on 22nd; MONTGOMERY: 80 at the Upper Dyfi Estuary on 5th Oct; CAERNARFON: 90 roosting in Llandudno town centre on 20th Dec; ANGLESEY: 85, mostly juvs, were on Rhosneigr Golf Course on 7th Aug; FLINT: 125+ on the beach at Gronant on 24th April.

Records of *M.a. alba* (White Wagtail) included:

GWENT: A small peak involving up to four birds per day at NWR Goldcliff between 10th and 17th April and an autumn peak in late Oct. It is likely that some at least of the passage along the coast, as observed in visible migration watching at Peterstone Wentlooge, involved the nominate form as well as *M. a. yarrelli*; E. GLAMORGAN: 36 reports, the first from Caerlan Farm, Penrhiwfer, on 14th March followed by a large influx on 14th April with 19 at Cardiff Bay and 11 in Kenfig dunes. In the autumn, 5 were at the Watermill, Ogmere on 15th Sept and 7 in Morganstown on 21st Sept; GOWER: Recorded from 8th March to 4th May, max 5 at Swansea Vale W on 13th April. In autumn, recorded from 14th Aug to 16th Nov, max 6 at Castell-du on 11th Sept and 24 overflying Mumbles Inner Head in 1 hr on 29th Sept; CARMARTHEN: 2 at Pentre-Davis on 11th April and 2 at Dinefwr Ponds on 13th, with singles at Pembrey on 13th and Typicca on 14th April; PEMBROKE: Spring passage 30th March - 1st June, max 32 at Pencarnan Camp on 15th April. Autumn passage 15th Aug - 11th Oct, max count 200 at Pencarnan Camp on 4th Sept, with 20 at Martin's Haven on 19th Sept; CEREDIGION: Widespread spring passage at coastal sites from 15th March to 29th April with a high count of 25 at Llanrhystud on 15th April but only four autumn records; BRECON: 67 '*albas*' counted at Talybont Reservoir on 11th Sept, and 134 on 26th Oct; MONTGOMERY: Reported at Dolydd Hafren (5 singletons and a flock of 6 on 19th Oct), Upper Dyfi Estuary (3 on 15th Sept) and from Lake Vyrnwy in March; MEIRIONNYDD: Reported in spring from 2nd April to 31st May, max 20 to the south of the Broadwater on 12th April. Autumn passage from 23rd Aug to 5th Nov, max 27 at Penrhyndeudraeth sewage works on 1st Sept; CAERNARFON: All but three records were from Bardsey with a spring max of 21 on 18th April and autumn max. of 95 on 27th Aug; DENBIGH: All but two of 34 records were from RSPB Conwy where the peak count was 20 on 21st and 22nd April; FLINT: Only four records with the high count of 48 at Gronant dunes on 12th April.

RICHARD'S PIPIT *Anthus richardi*

CORHEDYDD Y RICHARD

(A) *A scarce autumn passage migrant.*

All records were of singles: PEMBROKE: One over-wintered at Rhoscrowther, Angle Bay, from 9th Nov 2013 to 24th Feb 2014 and there was one on Skokholm on 15th Sept; CAERNARFON: Singles on Bardsey on 21st, 27th, 28th and 29th Sept with one at Llandudno on 9th Nov.

BLYTH'S PIPIT *Anthus godlewskii*

CORHEDYDD BLYTH

(A) *Vagrant, on BBRC list*

One at St. David's Head PEMBROKE on 18th Nov was the first accepted record for the county and only the second for Wales. The only previous record in Wales was on Bardsey in 2005.

TREE PIPIT *A. trivialis*

CORHEDYDD Y COED

(C) *A widely distributed and locally numerous summer visitor, increasing. Passage migrant in fairly small numbers, best marked on the south coast in autumn. Wales – Amber listed.*

Table of earliest and latest reports in each county:

	Earliest	Site	Latest	Site
GWENT	9 th April	Cadira Beeches, Wentwood	20 th Sept	Peterstone Wentlooge
E. GLAMORGAN	8 th April	Craig-yr-Allt	12 th Oct	Kenfig NNR
GOWER	13 th April	3 sites	9 th Sept	Oxwich
CARMARTHEN	18 th April	3 sites	6 th July	Gweunydd Cochion
PEMBROKE	27 th March	Lydstep headland	22 nd Sept	Skokholm
CEREDIGION	10 th April	Ynys-hir & Aberystwyth	2 nd Sept	Ynys-hir
BRECON	18 th March	Cwm Claisfer	1 st Aug	Brechfa Common
RADNOR	7 th April	Begwyns	14 th Sept	Begwyns
MONTGOMERY	26 th March	Cors Dyfi	12 th Sept	Llanymenech Rocks
MEIRIONNYDD	13 th April	Abergwynant	3 rd Aug	Craig yr Aderyn
CAERNARFON	4 th April	Great Orme	20 th Oct	Bardsey
ANGLESEY	19 th April	Cemlyn		
DENBIGH	19 th April	Gwynfryn	5 th July	Eglwyseg
FLINT	18 th April	Bodfari		

The breeding population in Wales appears to be fairly stable, with BBS trends showing a 3% decrease between 1995 and 2013 but a 7% increase between 2013 and 2014. GWENT: Widespread reports in the breeding season, most of singing males or displaying birds; E. GLAMORGAN: Bred at Rudry Common, and singing males at 18 other sites, with 26 caught and ringed at Kenfig on 14th Aug; GOWER: Present in the breeding season at 15 sites; CARMARTHEN: Two pairs bred at Cynnant, each rearing 5 young; PEMBROKE: Seen in the breeding season at 3 sites; CEREDIGION: Breeding counts included ten

singing males at Cwm Twrch/Bryn Glas on 4th May; MEIRIONNYDD: 10 singing on approx 50 ha of moorland S & SW of Llyn Tanygrisiau on 6th May; CAERNARFON: 11+ territories on a part-wooded 52 hectare survey site in Nant Gwynant on 4th June.

MEADOW PIPIT *A. pratensis*

CORHEDYDD Y WAUN

(C) A widespread and numerous breeding species, especially on moorland. Winter visitor and passage migrant. Most breeding birds are summer visitors. Wales – Amber listed.

BBS trends show a decline of just 1% in Wales between 1995 and 2013, though BTO Atlas results show a decline in relative abundance in many parts of Wales between 1988-91 and 2007-11. Counts of breeding or probably breeding birds included: GWENT: On Arail Mountain, of 11 nests found; eight were predated and one flooded out, but two were successful, fledging four and five young respectively. All three nests found at Blaenllwynau Farm were predated, but one in Blaensychan valley fledged five young. Of six nests around Byrgwm, two were predated, one was trampled by livestock and three raised young to fledging. On Cefn Crib, Hafodryns, 14 nests were located; seven failed due to unknown predators, while one fell victim to a Cuckoo, one was crushed by a tractor and another was flooded, but the remaining four nests fledged young. Around Mynydd Llanhilleth, of 9 nests monitored, three were predated, one flooded and the remaining five each fledged four young; E. GLAMORGAN: Confirmed breeding at 7 locations, possible breeding at another 25 sites; GOWER: Recorded at 17 widespread localities from coastal burrows to open upland moorland; PEMBROKE: 64 territories on Ramsey, 97 territories on Skomer; BRECON: 55 birds, many holding territory and in display, over Esgair Ceiriog on 9th April, 49 birds over a circular walk of Mynydd Llangatwg on 7th May and 36 territories across 5 km squares on Abergwesyn Common on 21st May; MONTGOMERY: An excellent breeding season reported at Lake Vyrnwy; MEIRIONNYDD: Breeding season records received from 33 sites; CAERNARFON: An estimated 20 territories around Ffynnon Lloer on 4th June; 25 in Cwm Pennant on 12th June, many carrying food or with recently fledged young; an estimated 20+ territories on a 65-hectare survey site on Moel Faban on 20th May, 25 territories on a 74 hectare site at Llyn Ffynhonnau on 22nd May; c. 20 territories on a 74-hectare survey site at Waun Bryn-gwenith on 25th May and also on 52ha at the Ricks and Racks near Llynnau Mymbyr; on 5th June; 24+ territories on 48 ha at Ty'n-y-mynydd, Waunfawr, on 27th May and up to 20 territories on 58 ha at Cwm Penmachno on 18th June. 100 birds were recorded in Nant Ffrancon on 15th April. The breeding population on Bardsey continues to increase, with a minimum of 97 territories.

Large counts (150+) were: GWENT: Good numbers on autumn passage at Peterstone Wentlooge in Sept, with 254 on 4th, 236 on 5th, 202 on 6th and 257 on 7th, then 862 on 13th, 431 on 14th, 830 on 17th, 5,243 on 20th, 1,150 on 21st and 179 on 27th; E. GLAMORGAN: 200 at Lavernock Pt on 16th Sept, rising to 400 on 18th Sept; GOWER: 250 at Mynydd Garn-fach W of Upper Lliw Res on 12th Oct; PEMBROKE: Autumn max on Skokholm 1,353 on 21st Sept. On Skomer, a max of 450 on 19th Sept; CEREDIGION: 150 south at Llanon on 11th Oct; BRECON: 150 on Pen Trumau on 3rd Sept and 250 on Mynydd Llangynidr on 19th Sept, 200 through Gamrhiw on 28th Sept; RADNOR: 450 beside the Claerwen Reservoir on 12th Sept; MEIRIONNYDD: On autumn migration large flocks at Nant Prysor

north plantation road (Migneint), Pont Tai Hirion and at the top of Cwm Hirnant pass with many hundreds present in early morning on 1st, 3rd and 4th Sept; CAERNARFON: Autumn passage on Bardsey peaked at 380 on 21st Sept and 2nd Oct; ANGLESEY: 472 between Cemlyn and Carmel Head on 10th March.

ROCK PIPIT *A. petrosus*

CORHEDYDD Y GRAIG

(C) *A breeding resident of rocky coastlines in all coastal counties except Flint and Gwent. Winter visitor in small numbers.*

No BBS trends are available for this species, but the population is probably stable. GWENT: Birds were observed at the Riverfront, Newport, on several dates in the spring and were later seen with fledged young. There were no hints of breeding anywhere else along the coast; E. GLAMORGAN: Confirmed breeding at Porthcawl Harbour, three singing males in Cardiff Bay on 5th March and breeding possible on Flat Holm and at Rhooose. Highest counts outside the breeding season were 11 in Cardiff Bay on 5th March and 12 at Southerndown Cliffs on 20th Nov; GOWER: Bred at Broughton Bay, Burry Holm, Worm's Head, Mewslade Bay, Thurba Head, Port Eynon Pt, Red Chamber, Longhole Cliffs, Rams Tor, W Brandy Cove and Port Talbot Harbour, with probable breeding at another site. Max 14 at Mewslade Bay on 14th Aug; CARMARTHEN: Two pairs bred at Burry Port Harbour, max count 10 between Burry Port and Pembrey Harbours on 7th Jan; recorded at another 4 sites; PEMBROKE: 165 on Skokholm on 21st Sept, 100 on Skomer on 27th Sept, 26 on the mainland at Dinas Head on 14th June and 14 at Newgale on 12th Dec. There were 24 territories on Skomer; CEREDIGION: Birds were seen all around the coast through the year and well up the Dyfi in the winter; BRECON: One at Llandefalle Hill on 29th Sept; MEIRIONNYDD: 1-4 birds at 4 sites; CAERNARFON: Bred at 5 mainland sites with probable breeding at several others. At least 50 singing males on Bardsey, the highest total since 1990. Monthly maxima here peaked at 71 in Oct; ANGLESEY: A nest was found on The Skerries, with other birds present. Birds recorded at 10 mainland sites, max 15 at Red Wharf Bay on 15th Nov; DENBIGH: Not seen in the breeding season; max count five on 6th Dec at RSPB Conwy; FLINT: Not recorded in the breeding season, max three at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 23rd Oct..

Birds showing characteristics of the Scandanavian race *A. p. littoralis* were reported from Fishguard outer breakwater PEMBROKE on 25th Jan and St. David's Head PEMBROKE on 17th March.

WATER PIPIT *A. spinoletta*

CORHEDYDD Y DWR

(B) *A winter visitor in small numbers, mainly recorded in coastal areas but also, less frequently in Wales, inland. Passage migrant in small numbers.*

The number of wintering birds seems to have decreased at several traditional sites in recent years. The approximate number of birds recorded by month was:

	<i>J</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>A</i>	<i>M</i>		<i>S</i>	<i>O</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>D</i>
GWENT	2	7	1						1	1
E. GLAMORGAN	2	17	1					1	1	1
GOWER	2		2							
PEMBROKE				1						1
CEREDIGION	1		2						3	2
MEIRIONNYDD	1								1	2
CAERNARFON	2	2								1
ANGLESEY									2	
FLINT			1							

Most records of ones or twos but 16+ at Rumney Great Wharf E. GLAMORGAN on 16th Feb.

BRAMBLING *Fringilla montifringilla*

PINC Y MYNYDD

(C) Winter visitor in variable numbers; seldom numerous and usually locally distributed.

Generally scarce in 2014, possibly because of mild winter weather further east, and low numbers, often ones or twos but larger flocks mainly in the first winter period. GWENT: A total of just 14 records. Much the largest count was 40 on Ysgryd Fach on 9th March; E. GLAMORGAN: Max 3 at Coed Cefn-fforest on 30th Nov; GOWER: No 1st winter period records. In autumn max 10 at Cwm Kenfig on 30th Nov; CARMARTHEN: C. 30 at Llandeilo, on 7th Jan; CEREDIGION: Up to 100 on the Hafod Estate in Jan/Feb; BRECON: 20+ at Llysdinam on 5th Jan; RADNOR: Very low numbers with most records of 1-3 birds; MONTGOMERY: 200 at Cefn Coch on 20th Feb and 150 on the Ceri Ridgeway on 29th Nov; MEIRIONNYDD: 3 records of singles in Nov - Dec; CAERNARFON: Max 7 at Penmachno on 8th and 21st April. On Bardsey, birds were recorded from 12th Oct to 20th Nov, with a peak of five on 29th Oct; ANGLESEY: Max 5 at Cemlyn on 29th Oct; DENBIGH: 22 records; counts of up to 10 in Feb and seven in April; FLINT: 23 records; in Jan to April the largest counts were 14 at Pantymwyn on 12th March, 18 on 9th March and 20 on 25th March.

CHAFFINCH *Fringilla coelebs*

JI-BINC

(C) An abundant resident, numerous passage migrant and winter visitor. Possibly declining.

The breeding population in Wales appears to be stable, with BBS trends showing just a 4% decline between 1995 and 2013. Counts of winter flocks over 150 included: GWENT: 211 at Peterstone on 12th March and a remarkable 1,250 joining a roost in a forestry plantation at Mynydd Maen on 23rd Feb. The first visible autumn migration was in Aug but the main peak was in Nov, with max 216 at Peterstone on the 16th; GOWER: 150 feeding on the strand-line near Loughor Bridge on 2nd Nov; CARMARTHEN: 147 at Penlan Uchaf on 24th Dec; PEMBROKE: 250 in the Warren Wood area, Eastern Cleddau on 13th Feb. Ramsey recorded a passage of 184 birds in October; CEREDIGION: 400 at Hafod estate on 14th

Jan and 300 at Mwnt on 19th Oct; BRECON: A root field at Belfont Farm attracted 150 on 10th Nov, increasing to 250 on 6th Dec; MONTGOMERY: 1,000+ on the Ceri Ridgeway on 29th Nov; CAERNARFON: The highest counts on Bardsey were 401 on 12th Oct and 455 on 29th Oct; ANGLESEY: 387 at South Stack on 24th Oct and 180 on 29th Oct, 800 flying east at Cemlyn on 29th Oct, 750 on 1st Nov between Cemlyn and Carmel and 245 between Cemlyn and Cestyll on 25th Oct with 562 there on 2nd Nov.

HAWFINCH *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*

GYLFINBRAFF

(C) Resident in small numbers in lowland areas, principally in east Wales and in the Dolgellau area of Meirionnydd. Formerly scarcer. Some evidence of small-scale immigration in winter. Wales – Amber listed.

Fieldwork specifically aimed at this species has found good numbers of nesting birds in some parts of Wales in recent years. This may be a real increase, or it may be that breeding Hawfinch were previously under-recorded. Declines further east mean that the Welsh population is becoming increasingly important in a UK context. GWENT: Most records came from the Wye Valley Hawfinch study. Regular feeding sites operated during March enabled 50 birds to be caught near Monmouth, 19 of which were recaptures from previous years and/or other sites, 44 were caught near Tintern, with 21 recaptures and 38 near Chepstow, with six recaptures. The study located 21 nests by radio-tracking, and five juveniles and four broods were ringed. Breeding was also proved at St. Pierre and suspected in Lower Minnetts Wood. Outside the breeding season, one in a garden at The Moorings in Jan, one at Wentwood in Nov and 8 in Slade Wood in Dec; E. GLAMORGAN: At Fforestganol/Tongwynlais birds present throughout Jan with the highest count 25 on 25th Jan and two pairs present on 17th March. There were two in Duffryn Gardens in March whilst at the Fforestganol location birds were present in Nov/Dec with max count 15 on 17th Nov and 10 on 29th Nov and 4th Dec; CEREDIGION: Singles in Trawsgoed Wood on 1st April and at Penglais Woods on 13th Nov; RADNOR: Recorded at eleven sites mostly in the autumn/winter; MONTGOMERY: One on feeders at Newtown on 7th and up to nine in Powis Castle car park from 29th to 31st Dec; MEIRIONNYDD: 12 nests were found in mid Meirionnydd, most of which failed due to weather or possible predation by Jays and Crow. One nest in the early nest check round held 6 young. It is suspected that the later nests fared better. The largest counts outside the breeding season were 13 in Llanelltyd churchyard on 13th Jan and 16 here on 27th Dec. Birds were also recorded at Maentwrog, Marion Mawr Ind Estate (Dolgellau), Coed Abergwynant, Pont Abergwynant, Groeslwyd and Coed Drefgerrig, Dolgellau; CAERNARFON: Good numbers at the two usual sites in the Conwy valley in the first winter period. At Caerhun birds were recorded until 21st April, with the highest count 20 on 6th Feb, and at Llanbedr-y-cennin there were regular records until 1st March, with the peak counts 30 on 19th Jan and 35 on 20th Jan. There was a bird above Trefriw on 22nd Feb. In the breeding season, one near Talybont on 4th May and reported present at Llanbedr-y-cennin on 25th May. Two were at Betws y Coed on 23rd Aug and four at Llanbedr-y-cennin on 6th Oct. Two records of singles on Bardsey, on 15th Sept and 29th Oct; DENBIGH: Several counts of one to 14 during Feb in the Vale of Clwyd, four at Llanellidan on 15th Feb; FLINT: A single at Nanerch on 26th Dec.

COMMON ROSEFINCH *Carpodacus erythrinus*

LLINOS GOCH

(A) A scarce migrant, on WRP list.

GOWER: A 1st winter bird at Overton on 1st Dec; PEMBROKE: A 1st winter bird on Skokholm on 5th - 10th Sept was trapped and ringed, as was another 1st winter bird at the Teifi Marshes on 27th Sept. Another was on Ramsey from 4th to 6th Oct; CAERNARFON: A first-summer male was on Bardsey, on 29th June.

BULLFINCH *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

COCH Y BERLLAN

(D) A fairly numerous resident in the lowlands, patchier in its distribution in the far west and scarce in the uplands, other than in some areas of recent afforestation. Unusual on the islands. Wales – Red listed.

BBS trends for Wales show a 7% increase between 1995 and 2013 and a 39% increase between 2013 and 2014, however the population in GWENT is thought to be still decreasing. Large counts (10+) were: E. GLAMORGAN: 11 at Hendre Lake on 22nd Jan, 11 at Parc Slip, on 6th March and 18 at Grangemoor Park in Cardiff on 30th Dec; PEMBROKE: 20 (incl. a group of 10) at Pantmaenog on 5th Dec, MONTGOMERY: 20 at Dolydd Hafren, on 12th April; ANGLESEY: 14 at Brynteg on 27th July.

On the PEMBROKE islands, a female was on Skomer on 18th Nov and a female on Ramsey on 30th Nov.

GREENFINCH *Carduelis chloris*

LLINOS WERDD

(C) Resident, has declined in recent years as a result of disease.

The Greenfinch has been hard hit by the epidemic of trichomonosis, first reported in 2005. BBS trends show a 38% decrease in Wales between 1995 and 2013, and an 11% decrease between 2013 and 2014. Signs of a recovery were reported in RADNOR but numbers still comparatively low everywhere. Birds showing possible symptoms of trichomonosis were reported from MONTGOMERY, DENBIGH and FLINT.

Large flocks (30+) were: GWENT: In the first winter period, up to 30 birds at Llangybi on 10th and 21st Jan and 100+ joined a roost at Black Rock on the evening of 27th Jan; E. GLAMORGAN: 35+ in Cardiff on 8th Jan, max 35 at Haillard Court, Atlantic Wharf, in March, 40 at Lavernock Pt on 17th Oct, and 70 at Sully Beach on 31st Oct; GOWER: Max 32 at Baglan Bay dunes on 29th Nov, but 355 different birds were ringed at Oxwich; BRECON: 36 on garden feeders in Llangynidr on 22nd Jan; MONTGOMERY: 100+ at the Upper Dyfi Estuary on 10th Jan; CAERNARFON: The largest counts were from roost sites: 80+ at Llanfairfechan on 19th Feb, c.130 roosting at the same site on 19th Dec, 385 birds (mainly this species but a few Goldfinch and other species) in Llandudno town centre on 17th Nov and c.200 at this roost on 20th and 29th Dec. On Bardsey, max 67 in Oct; ANGLESEY: 100+ flew in off the sea at Point Lynas on 2nd Sept; FLINT: Highest counts were all at Bagillt: 33 on 3rd Nov, 45 on 12th Oct and 51 on 15th Nov.

LINNET *Carduelis cannabina*

LLINOS

(C) Breeding resident, summer visitor and passage migrant. Wales – Red listed.

BBS trends show a decrease of 26% in Wales between 1995 and 2013, but an increase of 61% between 2013 and 2014. Counts of over 100 included: GWENT: At Peterstone there were 140 migrants on 30th Aug and then, in Sept, 191 on 21st, 342 on the 27th and 268 on the 28th. Inland, a flock of 150 at Park Wood on 17th Sept; E. GLAMORGAN: 110 at Bonvilston on 11th Jan, 435 at Cardiff Bay on 17th Feb, 100+ at Kenfig NNR on 13th Aug, 200 at Kenfig saltmarsh on 30th Aug, 300 at Sker Farm on 18th Sept and regular counts of 200 or more at Lavernock Pt in Sept and Oct, the highest being 500 on 8th and 18th Oct, 800 on 11th and 17th Oct, and 600 on 15th Oct; GOWER: 150 at Rhossili Head/ Causeway on 19th Jan. Post-breeding flocks max 200 at Morfa Tip near Kenfig rivermouth on 30th Aug, and in the second winter period max 230 at Crymlyn Burrows on 7th Oct; CARMARTHEN: The only large count was c.300 at Penlan Uchaf on 24th Dec; PEMBROKE: 500 at Castlemartin - Linney on 6th Sept, 300 at St. Anne's Head on 15th Aug, 250 at Castlemartin - Gupton on 30th Jan, 200 at Rhossen Farm St. David's on 3rd Sept, 150 at Pen Anglas on 15th Sept and at Castlemartin Corse on 8th Jan. On Ramsey, a max of 150 birds on 6th Aug; CEREDIGION: 170 at Llanrhystud on 19th Sept and 142 at Mwnt on 8th Sept; BRECON: 110 on Warren Road, Brecon on 7th Feb, 100 - 150 at Beilgwyn Farm, Crai, on 20th April, 100 by Mynydd Illtyd on 20th Aug and 220 birds at Cefn Llechid on 21st Dec; MONTGOMERY: 200 at Cwmdrwen on 18th Sept and 100 at Dolydd Hafren on 12th Jan; CAERNARFON: 120 at Bodlondeb near Nanhoron, on 14th Jan, 250 here on 5th March, 150+ near Uwchmynydd on 15th March, 120 between Dinas Dinlle and Pontllyfni on 17th Sept and 106 at Mynydd Mawr, Uwchmynydd, on 21st Sept. Passage on Bardsey peaked at 864 on 2nd Oct; ANGLESEY: c. 400 at Aberffraw on 21st Aug, c.100 between Silver Bay and Borth Wen on 30th Aug and between Cemlyn and Hen Felin on 13th April, 155 were between Cemlyn and Carmel on 31st Aug, 121 at Cemlyn on 28th July and 150 here on 7th Oct; FLINT: 100 at Point of Ayr on 11th Sept, at Connah's Quay N.R. on 11th Dec and at White Sands on 16th Dec, and 182 at Connah's Quay N.R. on 15th Oct.

TWITE *Carduelis flavirostris*

LLINOS Y MYNYDD

(A) Scarce breeding species, presumably resident, declining in range, now apparently extinct in Meirionnydd, a former stronghold; scarce winter visitor and passage migrant in very small numbers. Wales – Red listed.

Breeding is now probably limited to the area surrounding Nant Ffrancon in CAERNARFON, where there are thought to be around 15 pairs. All records were: CEREDIGION: Two at Llanrhystud on 14th Nov; CAERNARFON: Birds were recorded at the usual breeding site in Nant Ffrancon from 25th March to 10th July. The highest counts were 21 on 25th March and 15 on 3rd July and nearby, three in Cwm Idwal on 12th June. Late year records included 30 at Morfa Dinlle on 15th Aug, two at the Great Orme on 17th Oct with 16 there on 2nd Nov, four at Morfa Conwy on 2nd Nov with one on 15th Nov, two at Llanfairfechan on 16th Nov and 40 on high ground between Y Garn and Elidir Fawr on 3rd Dec; ANGLESEY: Up to 18 at Cemlyn Bay from 4th Nov to 29th Dec, one of which had been ringed at Gairloch, Highland in April 2014; DENBIGH: Reported at RSPB Conwy on 5th and 8th April with a single near Penycæ on 10th April. Present on Esclusham Mountain on 2nd Nov and 120

near Moel yr Iwrch, near Pentrefoelas on 11th Dec; FLINT: The largest counts were 103 at White Sands on 18 Nov and 115 on 22nd Nov at Connah's Quay N.R. followed by 180 on 4th Dec and 108 on 10th Dec. The last spring record was a single at Connah's Quay N.R. on 8th April and the first of autumn was one at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 7th Sept. Eight birds were ringed and colour-ringed at Connah's Quay on 13th March and six more there on 25th March. At Oakenholt Marsh up to 50 birds were seen during Feb, 14 in March and 25 in Nov.

LESSER REDPOLL *Carduelis cabaret*

LLINOS BENGGOCH LEIAF

(C) Partial migrant, widely distributed as a breeding bird. Passage migrant and winter visitor in varying numbers. Wales – Red listed.

No BBS trends can be calculated for Wales, but the population appears to be stable. Large counts (25+) and breeding records included: GWENT: A nesting pair at Trethomas on 7th June. In the Blaensychan Valley, three of six nests were predated, but the others fledged a total of 10 young; E. GLAMORGAN: Breeding was confirmed at Caerlan Farm, Penrhiwfer but few reports from suitable areas during the breeding season. Highest counts outside the breeding season were 25 at Parc Slip NR during Jan, 30 here on 21st Feb and 50 at Mynydd Eglwysilan on 20th Sept; GOWER: Probably bred at Brynlllefrith Plantation Upper Lliw Res, Crymlyn Bog and Crynant Forest E, Cwm Kenfig, and present in the breeding season at another 12 sites; CARMARTHEN: Breeding season records from Mynydd Pencarreg and Talley Woods; PEMBROKE: Recorded from 13 locations; CEREDIGION: Many breeding season records, mainly from the uplands in young forestry plantations and on the fringes of large boggy areas as Cors Caron and Cors Fochno; BRECON: 110 in Ty Mawr Wood, Llangasty from 2nd to 10th Jan, 25 in alders at Pentrefelin on 31st Jan. During May, up to three pairs in suitable breeding habitat below Allt Ddu, Craig Cwmdu and at Craig Cerrig Gleisiad (all Beacons), across Mynydd Illtyd and Cefn Llechid, and in Battle Hill forestry; MONTGOMERY: The highest count was 50 at Lake Vyrnwy on 9th April; MEIRIONNYDD: No confirmed breeding but records of probable or possible breeding at 24 sites. A flock of 40 including a few Siskin at Cae Garnedd, Llyn Celyn, on 7th Dec; CAERNARFON: Widespread in the breeding season. Six territories were noted on 52ha at the Ricks and Racks near Llynnau Mymbyr on 22nd June with a family party with 2 juveniles. Also bred near Alltwen with a family party seen on 25th July, and a family party on feeders in July at Hafod Lane, Bangor. The largest count was 30 on 23rd April in Nant Ffrancon; ANGLESEY: A pair seen displaying in Ty'n Llan scrub, Cemlyn, in June was not seen thereafter; DENBIGH: Breeding was confirmed at Llyn Brenig and Bronbannog in or near Clocaenog Forest where 36 were ringed between 26th July and 23rd Sept. 50+ near Maerdy, on 16th Dec; FLINT: Breeding was confirmed near Moel Famau and was likely at four other sites.

COMMON REDPOLL *Carduelis flammea*

LLINOS BENGGOCH

(A) Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor, on WRP list

An influx into the UK in 2014 produced several accepted records in Wales: BRECON: One

was photographed within a large Lesser Redpoll flock at Ty Mawr Wood, Llangasty, from 2nd to 5th Jan. One trapped and ringed at Llangasty on 22nd Feb could have been the same bird; MONTGOMERY: One was trapped at feeders at Llanfyllin on 24th March, a new county record; CAERNARFON: Singles on Bardsey on 1st, 11th and 23rd April.

2013: BRECON: A bird ringed at Llangasty on 26th Oct.

TWO-BARRED CROSSBILL *Loxia leucoptera*

CROESBIG WENADEN

(A) *Rare vagrant, on BBRC list.*

Four birds at Nercwys Mountain FLINT on 17th Feb. This is only the third record for Wales, and the first since 1991.

CROSSBILL *Loxia curvirostra*

GYLFIN GROES

(C) *An increasing resident species although numbers fluctuate; occasional irruptive immigrant.*

The number of birds breeding in Wales can vary considerably from year to year, with higher numbers following influxes from further east. Large counts (10+) and breeding records included: GWENT: Records of up to ten or more from heathland areas near Trellech, including Maryland and Trellech Hill, 30 at Slade/Minnetts Wood on 4th Jan, 10 at St Maughans on 4th March with 10 in Highmeadow Woods on 5th May and 25 at Chepstow Park Wood on 6th Nov; E GLAMORGAN: A pair with two juveniles at Mynydd Ty-talwyn on 17th April was the only report of breeding but birds seen in the breeding season at five other sites. Highest counts were 11 at Parc Slip NR on 24th Aug and 12 at Caerlan Farm, Penrhiwfer on 1st Dec; GOWER: 15 at Crynant Forest E on 11th Jan, c.30 at Mynydd Marchywel on 15th March, 10 at Brynlllefrith on 23rd May; CARMARTHEN: Only four records, including a male and juvenile at Pembrey Forest on 19th May and 30 at Cnw-c-y-llwyn, Brechfa on 15th Nov; PEMBROKE: 11 at Glyn Aeron on 11th Oct; CEREDIGION: 20 at The Arch on 16th Dec; BRECON: 18 records including 34 in Park Wood, Llanbedr on 2nd Jan. A male held territory at Pont-ar-Wysg on 28th June and two adults were seen feeding three juveniles at Upper Neuadd Reservoir on 31st July. Most reports were from December, many showing breeding behaviour, including a male in song courting a female at Coed y Rhaiadr on 1st Dec and an immature male song-fighting to a female at Pant Mawr on 28th; RADNOR: No sign of any immigration for the first time in several years. Widespread breeding in most large plantations. Largest flock was 65+ in Radnor Forest on 16th Oct; MONTGOMERY: 15 at Lake Vyrnwy on 19th Nov; MEIRIONNYDD: A pair with a juv at Llyn Maen Bras, Frongoch, on 11th June and present in suitable habitat at 13 other sites; CAERNARFON: 10 in Beddgelert Forest north of Rhyd-ddu on 1st Oct; ANGLESEY: 12 at South Stack on 12th March and 13 on 15th March, 10 flying over Cemlyn on 16th May. A singing male in Newborough Forest on 25th March; DENBIGH: 50+ in a tight flock seen near Penrycae on 2nd Feb; FLINT: 20 at Nercwys Mountain on 2nd Nov.

GOLDFINCH *Carduelis carduelis*

NICO

(C) Resident, summer visitor and passage migrant; possibly winter visitor in small numbers. Population is increasing.

BBS trends show a 72% increase in Wales between 1995 and 2013, and an 11% increase between 2013 and 2014. A continued increase in breeding numbers and distribution and in visits to garden feeding stations was noted in RADNOR and CAERNARFON, and the same is probably true of many other counties.

Flocks of 60+ included: GWENT: During Sept, there were several counts of around a hundred migrants at Peterstone but the largest count there was of 194 on 15th Nov. Elsewhere, 65 were at Osbaston on 12th Nov; E. GLAMORGAN: 64 at Trecynon on 24th Jan, 80 at Rumney Great Wharf on 15th Aug with 100 there on 12th Sept, 100 at Sker Pt on 14th Sept, 105 at Cardiff Bay on 15th Oct; GOWER: 60+ at Oxwich Marsh on 29th March, and a flock at the Nitten Field Mewslade built up to 150 during late Nov. A total of 444 unique birds were ringed at Oxwich, the most abundant species trapped, with peak influxes in March and Oct indicating seasonal movement; CARMARTHEN: 80 at Cilsan Bridge on 16th Sept; PEMBROKE: 75 at Skrinkle on 13th Aug and on Ramsey, 205 logged between Sept and Oct; CEREDIGION: 200 at Mwnt, on 12th April, 500 on thistles at Aberarth on 28th Aug and 100 at Llyn Fanod on 12th Sept; BRECON: 60 at Llanwrthwl on 2nd Jan; MONTGOMERY: 300 at Llanymynech on 12th Sept; CAERNARFON: 60 at the Great Orme on 31st Aug with 110 there on 5th Sept, 77 at Mynydd Mawr, Uwchmynydd, on 1st April, 70 at West Shore, Llandudno, on 17th Sept. Passage on Bardsey peaked at 313 on 12th Oct; ANGLESEY: c.180 at Caergeiliog on 14th Sept; DENBIGH: 60 near Moel Arthur on 28th Sept; FLINT: 80+ S of Rhyl, on 17th Aug and 250+ near Rhuddlan on 30th Aug.

SISKIN *Carduelis spinus*

PILA GWYRDD

(C) An increasing breeding species; numerous winter visitor and passage migrant.

No BBS trend can be calculated for Wales, but there was a 54% increase in the UK between 1995 and 2013. Large counts (40+) and breeding records included: GWENT: 110 at Brooksholm on 11th Jan. Evidence of breeding from sightings of fledglings at Llangybi on 17th and 21st June and at Loysey Wood on 24th July, where birds heard in several different locations. Up to six fresh juveniles were present at Osbaston in late June and July, with birds known to be breeding locally. In the second winter period, 60 at Ysgyryd Fach on 27th Oct; E. GLAMORGAN: Confirmed breeding reports from five sites and males were reported singing or displaying at three other sites. In the first winter period 100 at Pant-yr-Awel on 18th Jan and 105 on 12th Feb and 70 at Rivers House, St Mellons on 7th Feb. In the second winter period, 60+ at Garwnant on 25th Dec; GOWER: Bred at Oxwich NNR, Afan Argoed and Pen-y-Cae, probably bred at Crynant and present in the breeding season at another 7 sites. A regular flock at Oxwich, near a feeding station, totalled 40+ on 29th March; CARMARTHEN: 53 at Llandybïe on 20th Jan and 45 there on 4th March; PEMBROKE: Numbers well down on the previous year, max 40 at Narberth on 9th Jan; CEREDIGION: Numerous in suitable locations with 100 at Black Covert, Trawsgoed on 23rd Feb and up to 90 at RSPB Ynys-hir in both winter periods; BRECON: The highest garden counts were 50 at Glasbury on 3rd March and 100 in Newton Green, Llanfaes, on 28th March. Displaying

males/pairs were noted at only 16 sites. Late-year flocks were 50 in alders at Llangorse Lake on 24th Oct and 60 on the county boundary at Tonyfildre Farm, Banwen on 1st Dec; MEIRIONNYDD: Breeding season records from 27 sites; CAERNARFON: Fledged young at Beddgelert on 25th June and up to four birds, including two juveniles, on feeders at Hafod Lane, Bangor in July; ANGLESEY: 40 at South Stack on 8th April and 45 on 29th Oct with a large movement of 1,500 east at Cemlyn also on 29th Oct; DENBIGH: Of 451 records 26 were of 11 - 50+ birds with the largest count being 70 at Alyn Waters CP, Gwersyllt on 3rd Jan. Between 18th Feb and 26th June, 290 were ringed at Beddwlwyn in the Ceriog Valley; FLINT: 100+ seen in two 1km squares at Fagl Lane GP on 21st Jan, possibly the same flock. There were three confirmed breeding records at Rhydymwyn.

SNOW BUNTING *Plectrophenax nivalis*

BRAS YR EIRA

(B) Regular autumn passage migrant and winter visitor in small numbers. Wales – Amber listed.

Birds were recorded in most counties in both winter periods, mainly on the coast but with some on high ground. The last in spring was one over Bardsey on 2nd April and the earliest in autumn a single on Skokholm PEMBROKE on 6th Oct.

Large counts (5+) were: GOWER: 5 males and a female at Whiteford Sands on 2nd Feb; CARMARTHEN: A flock on Cefn Sidan, max 8 on 19th Jan; PEMBROKE: 6 at Foel Feddau in the Preselis on 30th Dec; BRECON: A flock of 20+ on Bwlch Giedd south of Fan Brycheiniog on 1st March, increasing to 22 - 24 on 5th March – the largest ever recorded in the county; MEIRIONNYDD: 10 on Diffwys in the south Rhinogs on 9th Jan; CAERNARFON: On the high tops of the Carneddau; there were 15 on Foel Fras on 22nd Jan. In the second winter period, up to five birds on the Great Orme from 4th to 10th Nov and in the uplands 9 on Carnedd Gwennlian on 9th Nov.

LAPLAND BUNTING *Calcarius lapponicus*

BRAS Y GOGLEDD

(A) An uncommon but regular passage migrant in small numbers, especially in autumn, and an occasional winter resident. Wales – Amber listed.

PEMBROKE: Three at Dale Airfield from 2nd to 11th Jan then a single there on 15th March, one at Castlemartin, Gupton on 30th Jan and 27th Feb. A single summer plumaged male on Skomer from 30th March to 4th April, one on 1st Oct and two more singles on 14th and 16th Nov. On Skokholm, single birds on 25th Sept, 15th Oct & 5th Nov; a single at Martin's Haven on 19th Sept and another at St. David's Head on 22nd Sept; CEREDIGION: One at Llanon on 23rd Nov; CAERNARFON: On Bardsey, there was one on 4th Feb and a male on 31st March. In the second winter period, there were singles on Bardsey on 21st and 22nd and 29th to 30th Sept with another on 2nd Oct. Singles were on the Great Orme on several dates between 25th Oct and 25th Nov, with three on 1st Nov and two on 10th Nov; ANGLESEY: One at Cemlyn on 4th Jan, two flying over Holyhead Breakwater CP on 15th Oct, one on The Range on 20th and 24th Oct and 17th Nov, one over Holyhead Golf Club calling on 29th Oct and one between Cemlyn and Cestyll on 25th Oct..

YELLOWHAMMER *Emberiza citrinella*

BRAS MELYN

(C) Declining as a resident breeding species over large parts of Wales. Wales – Red listed.

BBS trends show a 56% decrease between 1995 and 2013, though there was a 9% increase between 2013 and 2014. Largest counts and breeding summaries (not full surveys): GWENT: All but three of the year's 42 records came from the Monmouth area, particularly the lower Monnow valley at Osbaston. Two pairs bred in the Osbaston area, two birds seen near Grosmont on 25th March, a male near The Hendre on 26th April and a pair in suitable breeding habitat on Arail Mountain on 22nd June. Max counts were 12 near Llanrothal on 24th March and 12 at Osbaston on 1st Nov; E. GLAMORGAN: In the breeding season three, including a bird carrying food, at Dimlands on 8th July and singing birds heard at four sites with birds present at seven other sites. Largest counts were 20 at Castle-upon-Alun on 16th Jan and 25 at Pant Norton on 23rd Aug; GOWER: The only confirmed breeding was at Cwmdulais Cottages, N E Pontardulais, but breeding season records from another 16 sites. A regular flock of 15 at Nitten Field Mewslade in Nov; CARMARTHEN: A pair bred at Cynnant and there were breeding season records from the Rhandirmwyn/Cilycwm area, where six were at Cwmcroiddor, Cilycwm, on 8th May and four at Dinas on 14th. There was a singing male at Cwm Merchon, north-west of Cilycwm on 24th June. The only record from outside this area was of one at Talley on 30th Nov; PEMBROKE: Widely recorded especially from the south of the county including singing males on territory but no records of confirmed breeding; CEREDIGION: Recorded in only eight locations with breeding possible at six of these; no large flocks seen; BRECON: Seed in gardens in Llanwrthwl attracted birds to several locations, max 15 at Craiglyn on 16th Jan. In the breeding season, 34 singing males or pairs were located, but breeding confirmed only near Bwlch; RADNOR: Continued increase in breeding numbers in many arable areas with good hedges and on gorse commons. The largest flock was 45+ near Evenjobb on 12th Dec; MONTGOMERY: A population remains in scattered pockets across the county. More than half of the 54 records received were within the breeding season; MEIRIONNYDD: Bred or possibly bred at 13 sites; MEIRIONNYDD/CAERNARFON: 50 in fields near Afon Glaslyn around the county border from 24th Oct to December with 35 still there on 12th Dec; CAERNARFON: 26 at Bodlondeb near Nanhoron on 14th Nov, but some evidence of a decline in western Llŷn. In the breeding season there were 8 pairs in the Clegyr area and 1-3 pairs or singing males at about 20 other sites; ANGLESEY: 3 pairs bred around Brynteg, raising 11 - 12 young; DENBIGH: Max 30 near Llanfair Dyffryn Clwyd on 16th Dec. The only record of confirmed breeding was at Coedpoeth; FLINT: Max 20+ at Leeswood on 5th March.

ORTOLAN BUNTING *Emberiza hortulana*

BRAS Y GERDDI

(A) Rare vagrant, on WRP list.

In PEMBROKE a single bird on Skomer on 2nd Sept and possibly the same bird on Skokholm on 4th Sept, then another single on Skomer on 10th Sept. In CAERNARFON one was on Bardsey from 3rd to 5th Sept.

REED BUNTING *Emberiza schoeniclus***BRAS Y CYRS**

(C) *A fairly common resident breeding species, mainly in waterside habitats; evidence of a small autumn emigration. Wales – Amber listed.*

No BBS trends are available for Wales, but the population is probably stable. Breeding season records were: GWENT: Numerous reports of singing birds in suitable habitat, but only three confirmed breeding records: a brood of five ringed on Mynydd Garnclochdy, three recently-fledged young at Mynydd Llangatwg on 28th June and three at Monmouth on 29th July; E. GLAMORGAN: 15 pairs at Kenfig NNR on 30th April; GOWER: Bred at 12 sites and probably bred at another; CARMARTHEN: A pair bred at Cyngordy and there were five singing males at Penclacwydd; PEMBROKE: Widely scattered records and confirmed breeding from many sites including Skokholm which had five pairs and Skomer three pairs; CEREDIGION: Widely reported from suitable sites during the breeding season; BRECON: 7 territories at Caeau Ty Mawr, 28 - 29 singing males or pairs elsewhere; RADNOR: Continued increase in breeding numbers and spread into drier habitats; MONTGOMERY: Widespread records, notably from the Severn Valley, Llyn Clywedog, Llyn Hir, Dyfi Estuary, Llyn Mawr and Lake Vyrnwy where numbers were noted as "declining"; MEIRIONNYDD: Breeding or probable breeding at 18 sites, 12 birds around Llyn Tegid shore on 15th May; CAERNARFON: Confirmed breeding at Cors Gwaun-y-gwail, where there were 3 - 4 territories on and adjacent to a 48-hectare survey site on 25th June, and also at Llynnau Mymbyr, where there were 3 territories on 8th July. Pairs or singing males at 8 other sites; ANGLESEY: Breeding activity or birds present in the breeding season at 17 sites; DENBIGH: Just four records of breeding activity, max 15 at Holt on 19th June; FLINT: 15 records with breeding codes and breeding was confirmed at Shotton Steelworks and near Gronant.

Large counts (20+) in the first winter period were: GWENT: 30 at NWR Uskmouth on 11th Jan; E. GLAMORGAN: 22 at Kenfig Golf Course on 18th Feb; PEMBROKE: 25 at Warren Wood, Eastern Cleddau, on 13th Feb; CAERNARFON: 30 at Caeau, Mynytho, Llŷn, on 3rd April; DENBIGH: 23 near Fenn's Moss on 23rd April; FLINT: 20+ at Point of Ayr on 2nd Feb.

In the second winter period: GOWER: 70 at Nitten Field on 30th Nov. A total of 158 birds were ringed at Oxwich with peak influxes in March and Sept / Oct; MONTGOMERY: 50 at Dolydd Hafren on 30th Nov; CAERNARFON: 21 at Caeau, Mynytho, on 14th Nov and 23 on Bardsey on 29th Oct; ANGLESEY: 20 flying east at Cemlyn on 29th Oct .

BLACK HEADED BUNTING *Emberiza melanocephala***BRAS PENDDU**

(A) *Vagrant, on BBRC list*

A record of a female on Skomer PEMBROKE from 21st to 24th May was the 6th record for the island.

CORN BUNTING*Emberiza calandra**BRAS YR YD*

(A) Formerly a common breeder in Wales, now a rare visitor, on WRP list. Wales – Red listed.

One found in a small flock of Linnets at Lavernock Pt, E. GLAMORGAN on 8th Sept was the first record in Wales since 2010.

Escapes

These are birds placed by the BOU in Category E; some may breed occasionally but the population is not thought to be self sustaining. Some species are placed in more than one category, and a few species also included in categories A - C are placed here if it is thought that the bird concerned is very likely to have escaped from captivity.

GOLDEN PHEASANT *Chrysolophus pictus**FFESANT EURAID*

DENBIGH: A single record of one at Talarn Green, Sarn, on 21/12.

INDIAN PEAFOWL *Pavo cristatus**PAUN*

FLINT: Singles were recorded during BBS walks near Marian Cwm on 10th April and near Cilcain on 11th June.

HELMETED GUINEAFOWL *Numida meleagris**IAR GINI HELMOG*

GWENT: One was seen at Peterstone Wentlooge on 16th May.

BLACK SWAN *Cygnus atratus**ALARCH DU*

GWENT: Reported in Jan, April, Sept, Nov and Dec, with almost certainly the same bird involved. Reports came from Peterstone Wentlooge, St Brides Wentlooge, the Mon-Brec Canal and Llandegfedd Res; PEMBROKE: Three on the Cleddau from June - Nov; BRECON: The unringed bird that arrived at Llangorse Lake on 14th Oct 2013 remained until 14th Oct 2014, prior to moving to the Wye valley in RADNOR, where it was at Llowes/Clyro on many dates Oct to Dec; ANGLESEY: One at Cemlyn on 12th March; FLINT: A single was first seen at Shotwick Fields on 11th Jan to 7th Feb then at Connah's Quay NR on 31st March and on the saltmarsh at Flint on 2nd Aug. Possibly the same bird was at Shotwick Fields from 23rd - 31st Dec.

SWAN GOOSE *Anser cygnoides*

ALARCH WYDD

GWENT: A single bird was present at Parc Bryn Bach on 9th June and 6th Aug; FLINT: A single was near Rhuddlan from 5th Jan to 16th March.

BAR-HEADED GOOSE *Anser indicus*

GŴYDD BENRHESOG

GWENT: The usual long-lingering bird was at NWR Goldcliff Lagoons through the year until 23rd May, when it disappeared. It re-appeared on 28th Aug and then remained to year end; CAERNARFON: One at Caerhun on 10th and 28th March and one at Foryd on 26th July; DENBIGH: One at RSPB Conwy from 16th March to 18th July; FLINT: A single was at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 9th Jan and then at Connah's Quay NR on 17th Jan.

SNOW GOOSE *Anser caerulescens*

GŴYDD YR EIRA

GWENT: A single bird was at Llangybi on 19th Jan; DENBIGH: A singleton of unknown origin was present at RSPB Conwy on various dates from 14th June to 5th July; FLINT: One was at Hope on 17th March and another, a 'blue phase' bird was at Connah's Quay NR and RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 15th - 16th June. It is possible that this was the same bird seen at RSPB Conwy over the same period.

ROSS'S GOOSE *Anser rossii*

GŴYDD ROSS

DENBIGH: One, presumably the same bird, was seen at Llay Pool on 16th Feb and Fagl Lane GP on 28th Feb and 15th March. The same, or another, was at Gresford Flash on 20th Oct for its fifth successive year and at Fagl Lane GP on 29th - 31st Dec.

CAPE SHELDUCK *Tadorna cana*

HWYADEN GOCH Y PENRHYN

2013: MEIRIONNYDD: One on the Broadwater on 26th Oct.

MUSCOVY DUCK *Cairina moschata*

HWYADEN FWSG

GWENT: One was seen at Magor Marsh on 17th Aug; BRECON: Up to four adults frequented the Brecon Canal Basin in Jan - March. On 6th Oct, 3 adults were present with a young duckling, and a week later these were joined by a fourth adult. The species was 'present' at Cae Beris on 16th Nov; DENBIGH: One was at Gresford Flash on 6th Dec.

WOOD DUCK *Aix sponsa*

HWYADEN GRIBOG Y COED

DENBIGH: A male and female were seen together near Penycae on 16th April.

CHILEAN FLAMINGO *Phaenicopterus chilensis*

FFLAMINGO CHILE

DENBIGH: A single, presumed escape, was at Trevalyn Meadows on 28th Nov.

GOLDEN EAGLE *Aquila chrysaetos*

ERYR EURAID

One again summered in the northern part of CEREDIGION, and one soaring over Llanellwedd RADNOR on 24th July was presumably the same bird.

GYR FALCON *Falco rusticolus*

HEBOG Y GOGLEDD

PEMBROKE: One on Skomer 17th - 18th Aug; CAERNARFON: A white-morph bird on Bardsey on 20th - 21st Aug was wearing jesses, so was clearly an escaped falconer's bird.

EURASIAN EAGLE-OWL *Bubo bubo*

ERYRDYLLUAN EWROP

MEIRIONNYDD: A bird escaped about 5 years ago from the Llandderfel area and has apparently been living in the wild and fending for itself ever since. There have also been rumours of a bird around Cwm Prysor and Cwm Bowydd in the Blaenau Ffestiniog and Llan Ffestiniog area over the last few years.

WHITE-CHEEKED TURACO *Tauraco leucotis*

TWRACO BOCHWYN

GWENT: One appeared briefly at NWR Uskmouth on 10th Sept.

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A REPORT ON BIRD RINGING IN WALES DURING 2014

PETER HOWLETT

Cardiff

INTRODUCTION

This is the 27th annual report on bird ringing in Wales. The full grown total of 54,347 is the highest annual total since these reports began back in 1988, although it must be remembered that the totals in the reports might not represent the effort of every single ringer operating in Wales. The *pulli* total of 19,431 is the third highest total.

For the second year running the weather was relatively benign during 2014. There were some very stormy days in January and February which certainly had an impact on seabirds, especially auks – more of which later – but there were no prolonged spells of cold or wet weather to impact on landbirds. The first few months of the year were mild with above average temperatures but only February was unduly wet. The summer months likewise had slightly above average temperatures and for some parts of Wales May had above average rainfall. The autumn months maintained the mild theme with September being notably dry. The year ended on a mild note with average rainfall.

The long-term studies run by the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) all pointed to birds benefitting from this good weather with both the Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) and Nest Record Scheme (NRS) showing bumper breeding seasons with excellent productivity and juvenile survival.

It seems likely that the same good weather also helped contribute to the high totals, allowing ringers ample opportunity to get out; whether that was mist-netting, cannon-netting or making all their required visits to nest box schemes.

METHOD OF ENQUIRY

The annual totals were received electronically direct from the BTO and, as has been made clear before, although this electronic system makes for a very complete set of totals and avoids the need for ringers to send in their totals twice it does remove personal contact from the process. Once again there is little indication from the totals as to whether an increase is due to increased effort from one ringer or many and the same is true for any decreases.

A complete list of ringers was not received from the BTO for 2014 so the list of 'A' and 'C' ringers and groups is a mixture of those known through personal contact and what can be found on the web sites of various groups. Apologies to any ringer whose name does not make the list, the omission is not intentional and if there are any amendments please send them to the report editor for inclusion next year.

THE RINGING TOTALS

As can be seen with a record full grown total there were many record totals for individual species, 29 in fact. Many of these were down to increased effort with ringers or groups

targeting particular species or groups of birds. Perhaps the most eye-catching being Golden Plover (114), Jack Snipe (75), Snipe (146), Nightjar (66), Meadow Pipit (1418) and Hawfinch (241). However, the preliminary report on the breeding season from the BTO's NRS and Constant Effort scheme suggest that many species had a very good breeding season and this is probably reflected in the totals of quite a few resident species such as: Great Spotted Woodpecker (138), Cetti's Warbler (121), Chiffchaff (2,739), Blackcap (2,345), Nuthatch (154), Treecreeper (112), Robin (1,520) and Goldfinch (2,547).

There are a few totals which seem to defy what has been happening to the species' population in recent years and there is no clear reason as to why they should be so abundant this year. For instance the 700 Reed Bunting and 438 Bullfinch seem at odds with recent data.

Project-based ringing also resulted in high totals for the following: Woodcock (708), Whimbrel (37), House Sparrow (722), Rock Pipit (130) and Twite (22). The latter is very good given how scarce the species is in Wales.

The healthy *pulli* total largely reflects the good breeding season, particularly among species using nest boxes, as indicated by the 259 Nuthatch and 583 Redstart, with anecdotal comments that Nuthatch, in particular, were very abundant. It is to be hoped that the bumper total of 390 Barn Owl translates into a sustained increase given their recent worrying decline. Other notable totals include: Stock Dove (32), Nightjar (22) and Pied Wagtail (140). Ringing birds in the nest is a very time-consuming activity and, given the number of nests which fail, expensive, but ultimately it provides the most useful population monitoring data for scientists because you have birds of known age and breeding locality.

There were two species added to the 1988-2014 list, Great Snipe and Great Grey Shrike. The snipe being reward for trudging over acres of fields looking for Woodcock and Golden Plover. The second Eider, third Red Grouse and fourth Grey Phalarope were among the unusual species handled during the year along with seven scarce/rare species of warbler. Blyth's Reed Warbler was the rarest of these but the three Dartford Warbler are very noteworthy for Wales.

RINGING PROJECTS

In recent years the BTO has been encouraging ringers to take up projects which target certain species or age classes (such as adults). Many of the ringers in Wales have taken up this challenge and there are now many Retrapping Adult for Survival (RAS) projects in operation. The use of numbered, plastic 'Darvic' rings on larger species has also increased in recent years and has diversified away from the traditional gull species with Golden Plover and Whimbrel now carrying such rings. So if you are out and about make sure you check birds for any colour rings.

As the size of satellite transmitters continues to decrease so the range of bird species which can be targeted increases. For instance the ten Cuckoo are a result of adding to the pool of birds equipped with satellite tags to track their movements.

PUBLICATIONS INVOLVING RINGING IN WALES

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- Wood, M. 2015. Puffins in peril? Matt Wood on seabird populations. Online blog: <https://uglosbioscience.wordpress.com/2015/06/04/puffins-in-peril-matt-wood-on-seabird-populations/>

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Table 1: Birds ringed in Wales in 2013 & 2014

Species	2014		2013					
	FG	Pulli	FG	Pulli				
Avocet					–	14	–	–
Little Ringed Plover					3	4	5	9
Ringed Plover					86	7	106	6
Golden Plover					114	1	92	–
Grey Plover					–	–	2	–
Lapwing					28	13	16	6
Knot					22	–	8	–
Sanderling					60	–	152	–
Curlew Sandpiper					4	–	–	–
Purple Sandpiper					1	–	1	–
Dunlin					624	–	262	–
Ruff					–	–	1	–
Jack Snipe					75	–	24	–
Snipe					146	–	63	–
Great Snipe					1	–	–	–
Woodcock					708	–	601	–
Black-tailed Godwit					1	–	1	–
Bar-tailed Godwit					7	–	10	–
Whimbrel					37	–	69	–
Curlew					160	2	77	4
Common Sandpiper					28	–	17	4
Green Sandpiper					7	–	4	–
Greenshank					10	–	5	–
Redshank					336	–	675	–
Turnstone					37	–	169	–
Grey Phalarope					1	–	–	–
Kittiwake					34	40	12	15
Black-headed Gull					4	123	1	–
Mediterranean Gull					–	–	1	–
LBB Gull					257	488	156	280
Herring Gull					31	552	31	722
GBB Gull					25	103	–	116
Little Tern					–	14	–	55
Sandwich Tern					2	–	11	–
Common Tern					1	538	2	122
Arctic Tern					50	526	50	503
Guillemot					40	482	98	739
Razorbill					73	299	57	389
Puffin					139	36	119	110
Red Grouse	1	–	1	–				
Mute Swan	38	23	25	47				
Whooper Swan	–	–	2	–				
Greylag Goose	16	–	–	12				
Canada Goose	216	–	206	15				
Barnacle Goose	–	–	25	–				
Shelduck	10	–	–	–				
Wigeon	25	–	13	–				
Teal	3	–	4	–				
Mallard	17	1	3	–				
Eider	1	–	–	–				
Red-br. Merganser	–	–	1	–				
Goosander	1	2	2	–				
Fulmar	4	–	3	–				
Manx Shearwater	2,862	435	2,083	625				
Storm Petrel	829	11	549	4				
Gannet	53	–	58	–				
Cormorant	–	316	–	264				
Shag	9	279	9	294				
Little Egret	–	4	–	38				
Grey Heron	–	1	1	9				
Little Grebe	3	–	–	–				
Honey-buzzard	–	1	–	4				
Red Kite	–	15	3	41				
Goshawk	–	55	–	60				
Sparrowhawk	35	1	18	4				
Buzzard	2	18	2	19				
Osprey	–	4	–	6				
Kestrel	3	89	2	74				
Merlin	–	1	1	2				
Hobby	–	7	–	11				
Peregrine	–	6	1	17				
Water Rail	11	–	5	–				
Corncrake	–	–	1	–				
Moorhen	16	2	4	–				
Coot	–	4	–	–				
Oystercatcher	859	22	635	–				

Black Guillemot	—	—	—	4	Chiffchaff	2,739	12	1,867	16
Stock Dove	7	32	2	26	Willow Warbler	2,804	31	1,657	—
Woodpigeon	15	8	18	1	Blackcap	2,345	7	1,379	5
Collared Dove	9	2	13	—	Garden Warbler	189	2	121	5
Cuckoo	10	1	2	1	Barred Warbler	1	—	1	—
Barn Owl	28	390	19	98	Lesser Whitethroat	42	—	28	—
Little Owl	4	6	3	5	Whitethroat	452	10	317	—
Tawny Owl	14	45	6	9	Dartford Warbler	3	—	—	5
Long-eared Owl	2	12	1	—	Subalpine Warbler	1	—	2	—
Short-eared Owl	2	4	—	1	Grasshopper Warbler	52	—	23	—
Nightjar	66	21	35	9	Booted Warbler			1	—
Swift	12	4	—	—	Icterine Warbler	1	—	—	—
Kingfisher	47	—	26	—	Sedge Warbler	2439	2	—	—
Wryneck	2	—	2	—	Blyth's Reed Warbler	1	—	1	—
Green Woodpecker	4	—	4	—	Marsh Warbler	1	—	—	—
GS Woodpecker	138	—	99	—	Reed Warbler	1854	56	1,741	169
Red-backed Shrike	—	—	1	—	Waxwing	—	—	14	—
Woodchat Shrike	—	—	1	—	Nuthatch	154	259	137	105
Great Grey Shrike	3	—	—	—	Treecreeper	112	7	87	5
Chough	14	250	4	213	Wren	1009	43	670	7
Magpie	36	9	23	3	Starling	745	8	746	19
Jay	60	—	38	—	Dipper	112	391	221	466
Jackdaw	51	41	196	63	Ring Ouzel	7	4	4	—
Rook	13	9	51	2	Blackbird	1078	188	1,121	88
Carriion Crow	2	20	—	16	Fieldfare	73	—	61	—
Carriion/Hooded Crow	1	—	2	—	Song Thrush	310	52	250	45
Raven	—	10	—	14	Redwing	428	—	348	—
Goldcrest	1,476	—	803	—	Mistle Thrush	12	3	8	2
Firecrest	13	—	16	—	Spotted Flycatcher	97	55	74	53
Blue Tit	4,077	3,120	3,380	1,976	Robin	1520	83	1,056	54
Great Tit	1,747	1,835	1,454	1,324	Nightingale	1	—	—	—
Coal Tit	467	67	566	11	Red-br. Flycatcher	3	—	1	—
Willow Tit	25	—	26	—	Pied Flycatcher	420	4,816	365	3,870
Marsh Tit	26	16	32	7	Black Redstart	1	—	2	—
Bearded Tit	5	—	8	—	Redstart	92	583	104	500
Woodlark	—	—	1	—	Whinchat	11	236	7	179
Skylark	38	10	50	7	Stonechat	69	36	26	26
Sand Martin	422	1	153	—	Wheatear	90	16	87	34
Swallow	2,809	1,313	2,134	878	Dunnock	862	18	679	19
House Martin	60	23	45	14	House Sparrow	722	103	613	97
Cetti's Warbler	121	—	70	—	Tree Sparrow	2	65	1	38
Long-tailed Tit	564	—	443	—	Yellow Wagtail	6	1	2	3
Greenish Warbler	—	—	1	—	Grey Wagtail	21	135	35	81
Yellow-browed Warbler	8	—	11	—	Pied/White Wagtail	279	140	156	78
Dusky Warbler	—	—	1	—	Tree Pipit	55	—	11	12
Wood Warbler	11	96	13	56	Meadow Pipit	1418	63	638	46

Rock Pipit	130	5	53	11	Common Redpoll	9	–	1	–
Water Pipit	1	–	1	–	Redpoll Sp.	7	–	10	–
Chaffinch	1940	41	1,735	36	Common Rosefinch	2	–	3	–
Brambling	290	–	300	–	Bullfinch	438	3	345	–
Greenfinch	973	4	582	2	Hawfinch	241	18	237	29
Goldfinch	2547	28	1,815	–	Snow Bunting	1	–	–	–
Siskin	2466	–	2,301	–	Yellowhammer	116	2	71	4
Linnet	107	16	54	9	Reed Bunting	700	8	346	4
Twite	22	–	10	–	Grand Total	54,347	19,435	39,447	15,486
Lesser Redpoll	1148	1	613	–					

SELECTED RINGING RECOVERIES

This is only a small selection of the hundreds of recoveries reported during the year and a complete report can be found on the BTO website (www.bto.org). It is always difficult deciding which to showcase in this report and the decision is usually based on whether the bird is unusually old, whether it has moved a long distance for the species, whether there is something odd about the recovery or if recoveries of a species are particularly rare. As always please remember to check birds for colour rings when out birding and also check any dead birds you come across. You can report a ringed bird to the BTO via their website.

The recoveries are arranged by species, with ringing details on the first line and recovery details on the second. The symbols and conventions used are outlined below; age is given according to the Euring code, the figures DO NOT represent years. Scientific names are given in the main systematic list.

Age when ringed		Manner of recovery	
1	pullus (= nestling or chick)	X	found dead
2	fully grown, year of hatching unknown	XF	found freshly dead or dying
3	hatched during calendar year of ringing	XL	found dead (not recent)
4	hatched before calendar year of ringing but exact year unknown	+	shot or intentionally killed by man
5	hatched during previous calendar year	+F	shot or intentionally killed by man-fresh
6	hatched before previous calendar year but exact year unknown	I	found sick or injured-not released
7	definitely hatched 2 years before year of ringing	SR	found sick or injured-released with ring
8	hatched more than 2 calendar years before year of ringing	V	alive and probably healthy, caught and released not by a ringer
		VV	as V but sighting in field (includes colour mark records)
Sex		R	caught and released by ringer
M	Male	B	as R - breeding
F	Female	RR	as VV but by a ringer
		BB	as RR – nesting
		U	Unknown

Mute Swan

UH6794	5M	24-08-1996	Llyn Padarn, Llanberis, Gwynedd
	VV	08-09-2014	Fairhaven, Lytham St Annes, Lancashire
			101km NE 18y 0m 15d

The record for this species is just over 29 years so some way to go yet but still a good age. This bird has been seen in Fairhaven on a further five occasions between 1996 and 2014.

Canada Goose

5266060	6	03-07-2011	Llangorse Lake
	+F	24-09-2014	Balbeggie, Perth and Kinross
			504km N 3y 2m 21d

A lot of the feral geese in the UK move north to moult.

Wigeon

FH86639	6M	21-12-2014	Bangor, Gwynedd
	+F	25-12-2014	Baie Des Veys, Carentan, FRANCE 49°22'N 1°7'W
			476km SSE 0y 0m 4d

Not many Wigeon are ringed each year in Wales so getting a recovery is interesting. The method of recovery is a bit unfortunate but does demonstrate how mobile ducks can be in the winter.

Fulmar

FV77973	6	02-07-1980	Great Saltee, Co Wexford, EIRE.
	X	30-03-2014	Harlech, Gwynedd
			190km ENE 33y 8m 28d

As with many seabirds Fulmar are very long-lived and the record for this species is almost 41 years so this bird was a relative youngster but still a very good age. Unfortunately it was unable to ride out the winter storms and was picked up on the tideline.

Manx Shearwater

FR17206	1	29-08-1980	Bardsey Island, Gwynedd
	R	09-07-1983	Bardsey Island, Gwynedd
	R	14-04-2009	Bardsey Island, Gwynedd
	R	24-06-2010	Bardsey Island, Gwynedd
	R	26-06-2014	Bardsey Island, Gwynedd
			33y 9m 28d
FR37617	1	26-06-1982	Skomer Island, Pembrokeshire
	R	02-06-2009	Skomer Island, Pembrokeshire
	R	30-05-2011	Skomer Island, Pembrokeshire
	R	10-04-2013	Skomer Island, Pembrokeshire
	R	03-06-2014	Skomer Island, Pembrokeshire
			31y 11m 8d
FR48752	1	15-09-1983	Skomer Island, Pembrokeshire
	R	21-07-2014	Skokholm Island, Pembrokeshire
			5km 30y 10m 6d
FR55960	6	04-08-1983	Bardsey Island, Gwynedd

	R	03-06-1989	Bardsey Island, Gwynedd
	R	18-08-1996	Bardsey Island, Gwynedd
	R	05-05-2014	Bardsey Island, Gwynedd 30y 9m 1d
FR50604	1	23-09-1984	Skomer Island, Pembrokeshire
	R	30-05-2011	Skomer Island, Pembrokeshire
	R	25-05-2013	Skomer Island, Pembrokeshire
	R	03-06-2014	Skomer Island, Pembrokeshire 29y 8m 11d

Five of the oldest recoveries reported during the year. The longevity record for this species is a staggering 50 years 11 months so these birds still have some way to go. Given how much these birds are on the wing while breeding and the fact they winter off the coast of Argentina it is difficult to comprehend the distance they travel in a lifetime.

As Manx Shearwater shuffle around on their tarsi when on the ground these rings have a limited life expectancy and the rings are normally replaced after about 20 years so it was lucky the original ring was still legible when FR48572 was retrapped.

Storm Petrel

SE23237	4	11-07-2013	Banneg, Finistere, FRANCE 48°25'N 5°0'W
	R	23-07-2014	Skokholm Island, Pembrokeshire 366km N 1y 0m 12d
SE23331	4	12-07-2013	Banneg, Finistere, FRANCE 48°25'N 5°0'W
	R	20-07-2014	Skokholm Island, Pembrokeshire 366km N 1y 0m 8d
SE25860	4	19-08-2014	Banneg, Finistere, FRANCE 48°25'N 5°0'W
	R	22-08-2014	Skokholm Island, Pembrokeshire 366km N 0y 0m 3d

This is a key study species for the newly re-established Skokholm Bird Observatory as it has the largest Storm Petrel colony in Wales. This work resulted in a total of nine birds being controlled (ringed away from Skokholm) including these three birds from France. There have only been five French-ringed Storm Petrels recovered in Wales, four of which have been on Skokholm.

Cormorant

5162932	1	06-07-1993	Great Innisvoulis, Isles of Scilly
	XF	27-02-2014	Freshwater East, Pembrokeshire 211km NNE 20y 7m 21d
5163791	1	13-06-1996	Ynysydd Gwylans, Gwynedd
	X	17-04-2014	Hells Mouth, Gwynedd 9km ENE 17y 10m 4d
5250035	1	24-06-2006	Puffin Island, Anglesey
	VV	08-09-2006	Ynyslas, Ceredigion
	VV	07-10-2013	Brora, Sutherland 521km N 7y 3m 13d

The first two birds are the oldest reported during the year, the first was within a year of setting a new longevity record for the species so is particularly noteworthy.

Shag

1305894	1	08-06-1992	Ynysoedd Gwylan, Gwynedd
	XF	25-02-2014	Criccieth, Gwynedd 35km ENE 21y 8m 17d
1201679	1	27-06-1992	Puffin Island, Anglesey
	XF	11-03-2014	Llanbedrog, Gwynedd 60km SSW 21y 8m 12d
1324225	1	12-06-1995	Ynysoedd Gwylan, Gwynedd
	XF	07-02-2014	Fistral beach, Newquay, Cornwall 265km S 18y 7m 26d

Three of the oldest recoveries reported during the year and the third is also the furthest. Shag are relatively sedentary and rarely move more than a few tens of kilometres from their colony.

The longevity record for Shag is 29 years 10 months so these are good ages.

Little Egret

GR47679	1	25-06-2012	Penrhyn Castle, Bangor, Gwynedd
	VV	08-01-2014	Playa Blanca, Lanzarote, 28°51'N 13°51'W 2824km SSW 1y 6m 14d

This is the second Welsh-ringed Little Egret to be seen in the Canary Islands. The other 15 recoveries were all within the UK.

Honey Buzzard

GC05850	1	10-08-2005	Powys
	+F	06-04-2014	Gbonyea, Lofa, LIBERIA 7°30'N 9°33'W 5033km S 8y 7m 27d

A sad end for this bird having managed to negotiate the route 16 times in the previous eight years.

Red Kite

HT25860	1	21-06-1990	Powys
	XF	20-01-2014	Aberarth, Ceredigion 68km WSW 23y 6m 30d

A very good age for a Red Kite and just a few months short of the longevity record for the species.

Marsh Harrier

MA24643	1M	15-06-2013	Wells-next-the-Sea, Norfolk
	VV	31-08-2014	Kidwelly, Carmarthenshire
	VV	17-09-2014	nr Penclawdd, Swansea 367km 0y 3m 3d

This isn't the first time a wing-tagged Marsh Harrier from Norfolk has made it all the way west to Wales and shows the value of identification marks which can be read in the field.

Kestrel

S349074	1F	30-06-2014	Pohjois-Pohjanmaa, FINLAND 65°30'N 25°57'E
	XF	17-10-2014	Llandyfriog, Ceredigion 2283km SW 0y 3m 17d
7199546	1	22-06-2010	Kymbo, Falkoping, SWEDEN 58°4'N 13°45'E
	XF	05-06-2014	Ruabon, Wrexham 1197km WSW 3y 11m 14d

A shame that both these long-distance migrants met their end in Wales, the Finnish through disease the Swedish being struck by a car. These are the fourth Finnish-ringed and third Swedish-ringed Kestrels to be recovered in Wales – indicating that these long-distance migrants aren't that uncommon.

Oystercatcher

FR38528	6	07-02-1982	Ogwen Estuary, Gwynedd
	R	07-08-1983	Ogwen Estuary, Gwynedd 1y 6m 0d
	R	05-10-1997	Llanfairfechan, Gwynedd 8km ENE 15y 7m 28d
	R	18-02-2007	Wig, near Bangor, Gwynedd 4km 25y 0m 11d
	R	19-01-2014	Bangor Harbour, Gwynedd 2km 31y 11m 12d
FA05015	6	15-01-1983	Wig, near Bangor, Gwynedd
	R	01-10-2011	Llanfairfechan, Gwynedd 4km 28y 8m 16d
	R	19-10-2013	Llanfairfechan, Gwynedd 4km 30y 9m 4d
	R	12-10-2014	Llanfairfechan, Gwynedd 4km 31y 8m 27d
FA34269	5	12-02-1989	Llanfairfechan, Gwynedd
	R	13-11-2004	Llanfairfechan, Gwynedd 0km 15y 9m 1d
	R	19-10-2013	Llanfairfechan, Gwynedd 0km 24y 8m 7d
	R	12-10-2014	Llanfairfechan, Gwynedd 0km 25y 8m 0d
FC12614	1	07-06-1990	Skomer Island, Pembrokeshire
	XF	09-07-2014	Skomer Island, Pembrokeshire 24y 1m 2d
FA34731	6M	20-10-1990	Ogwen Estuary, Gwynedd
	R	14-10-2000	Wig, near Bangor, Gwynedd 4km 9y 11m 24d
	R	12-10-2014	Llanfairfechan, Gwynedd 8km ENE 23y 11m 22d
4108387	1	11-06-2009	Hvalfjordur, ICELAND 64°22'N 21°33'W
	R	02-12-2012	Pen-y-Parc, Anglesey 1,585km SE 3y 5m 21d
	R	19-10-2013	Llanfairfechan, Gwynedd 1,589km SE 4y 4m 8d
	R	23-11-2014	Penmon Quarry, Anglesey 1,583km SE 5y 5m 12d
4104279	6	20-05-2013	Hvolsvollur, ICELAND 63°46'N 20°10'W
	R	12-10-2014	Llanfairfechan, Gwynedd

1,494km SE 1y 4m 22d

A fine set of elderly birds retrapped during the year, although perhaps that should be middle-aged as the longevity record for Oystercatcher is just over 40 years. Surprisingly, given we know Icelandic breeding birds winter in Wales, there have only been 16 previous recoveries of Icelandic-ringed Oystercatchers in Wales.

Woodcock

FA02752	2	22-09-2008	Berezinski Reserve, BELARUS 54°49'N 28°37'E
	+F	27-01-2014	Capel Hendre, Carmarthenshire 2,195km W 5y 4m 5d
GY91416	3	29-11-2011	Incheville, Seine-Maritime, FRANCE 50°0'N 1°28'E
	+F	12-01-2013	Powys 435km NW 1y 1m 14d
X94463	4	14-01-2013	Dyffryn Mawr, Pembrokeshire
	+F	18-11-2014	Oksbøl, DENMARK 55°37'N 8°18'E 942km ENE 1y 10m 4d
EX42257	4	10-12-2012	Tre-Gwynt, Llanerfyl, Powys
	+F	29-10-2014	Auberville-La Manuel, FRANCE 49°49'N 0°34'E 421km SE 1y 10m 19d
EX73517	3	16-11-2011	Rhiwgoch, Llanbrynmair, Powys
	XF	20-11-2014	Tensbittel-Rost, GERMANY 54°6'N 9°13'E 872km E 3y 0m 4d

The concerted effort on Woodcock in Wales continues to pay off with another nine birds recovered in Russia during 2014, bringing the number of Welsh-ringed birds recovered there to 38. More unusual recoveries are those shown above with the seventh bird to France, the fourth to Denmark and only the second to Germany.

Also above are the only two foreign-ringed birds reported during the year, the second record of a Belarus bird in Wales and the tenth from France.

Bar-tailed Godwit

1309355	6M	25-05-1994	Zwinweg, Texel, NETHERLANDS 53°6'N 4°52'E
	R	11-05-2014	Llansantffraed, Ceredigion 617km W 19y 11m 16d

This is the first Dutch-ringed bird to be recovered in Wales and also a good age.

Whimbrel

EY08352	6	24-04-2012	Llansantffraed, Ceredigion
	VV	07-08-2014	Port Seton, wrecked Craigs, East Lothian 417km N 2y 3m 14d
EX28626	6	02-05-2010	Llansantffraed, Ceredigion
	VV	29-04-2014	Pleubian, Cotes-d'Armor, France 48°52'N 3°4'W 388km S 3y 11m 27d
EY08400	6	13-05-2012	Llansantffraed, Ceredigion
	R	11-05-2014	Llansantffraed, Ceredigion 0km 1y 11m 28d

There have only ever been around 150 Whimbrel ringed in Wales and only eleven recoveries, three of which have been reported this year. With relatively small numbers passing through Wales it's good going to be able to retrap one of your own birds from year to year.

Curlew

FA34102	4	11-09-1988	Ogwen Estuary, Gwynedd
	R	28-09-2014	Abergwyngregyn, near Bangor, Gwynedd 5km 26y 0m 17d
FP30941	4	15-09-2001	Wig, near Bangor, Gwynedd
	XF	28-06-2014	Kuusamo, FINLAND 66°15'N 29°6'E 2,331km NE 12y 9m 13d

FP30941 represents the fifteenth Welsh-ringed Curlew to be recovered in Finland. As well as the 26 year-old FA34102 there were also three 20 year-old and one 18 year-old birds reported during the year. Curlew, as with many larger species is long-lived with a current longevity record of 32 years 7 months.

Kittiwake

EP67391	1	20-07-1991	Puffin Island, Anglesey
	VV	12-11-2012	Lowestoft, Suffolk
	R	25-06-2013	Lowestoft, Suffolk
	VV	23-01-2014	North Beach, Lowestoft, Suffolk 399km ESE 22y 6m 3d
EX41190	6	26-06-2013	Puffin Island, Anglesey
	VV	16-04-2014	Claremont Pier, Lowestoft, Suffolk 399km ESE 0y 9m 21d
EW34368	1	13-07-2007	Inner Farne, Farne Islands, Northumberland
	R	09-07-2011	Puffin Island, Anglesey
	RR	07-07-2012	Puffin Island, Anglesey
	RR	23-06-2014	Puffin Island, Anglesey 297km SSW 6y 11m 10d
EL48315	1	14-07-2006	Puffin Island, Anglesey
	VV	29-03-2014	Boulogne sur Mer, FRANCE 50°43'N 1°34'E 481km SE 7y 8m 15d

A few examples of birds settling to breed some distance from their natal colony. It's quite possible that EL48315 is also from one of the colonies in the southern North Sea.

Lesser Black-backed Gull

GJ72812	1	04-07-1983	Skomer Island, Pembrokeshire
	S	09-11-2014	Walwyn's Castle, Pembrokeshire 16km E 31y 4m 5d
GR98267	8	27-05-2014	Skokholm Island, Pembrokeshire
	VV	20-08-2014	Crabby Beach, Alderney, Channel Islands 309km SE 0y 2m 24d
D5674	8F	16-05-2011	Chouet Landfill, Vale, Guernsey, Channel Islands
	VV	30-07-2013	Roath Park Lake, Cardiff

227km N 2y 2m 14d

D5674 represents only the second Channel Island-ringed Lesser Black-back to be recovered in Wales, whilst GR98267 is the eighteenth to go the other way. The longevity record for this species is a little under 35 years so a 31 year-old bird is a very good record.

Great Black-backed Gull

MA30864	1	16-06-2013	Denny Island, Bristol Channel
	VV	29-03-2014	Chouet Beach, Guernsey, Channel Islands
			225km S 0y 9m 13d
	VV	01-05-2014	Looe Island, Looe, Cornwall
			176km SW 0y 10m 15d
	VV	15-07-2014	Chew Valley Lake, Somerset
			26km SSE 1y 0m 29d
	VV	15-10-2014	Blagdon Lake, Somerset
			22km SSE 1y 3m 29d

An extremely mobile gull, showing the value of colour-rings.

Auks

The storms over the winter of 2013-14 had a major impact on UK auks and the number of casualties is probably the greatest loss of UK seabird life since the 1963 North Sea wreck. The totals of dead birds picked up from beaches along the coast of NW Europe are sobering: 16,000 Puffin, 9,000 Guillemot, 2,800 Razorbill and a further 1,200 'auk sp.'. Although auks make up the majority the storms affected over 20 species and more than 43,000 birds were collected in total.

Among these were many ringed birds, for instance there were 218 BTO-ringed Puffins recovered around the Biscay coast in early 2014, 211 of them from France. Of these only 14 were from Welsh colonies but that is more due to the relatively low numbers ringed in Wales than birds from Welsh colonies being less affected.

Many of the dead will be immature birds so the impact on UK colonies may not be felt for a few years, although the 2014 count of breeding Puffin on Skomer and Skokholm was down by 25% (in the region of 5,000 birds) on recent years (Wood 2015).

Great Grey Shrike

LA48461	3F	18-01-2014	Mullock, near Marloes, Pembrokeshire
	R	13-09-2014	Mullock, near Marloes, Pembrokeshire
			0km 0y 7m 26d

This bird was an addition to the 1988-2014 list so an excellent record in itself but it's amazing that the ringers then managed to catch it again in the autumn returning to the same wintering site.

Chough

ET54724	3M	02-08-1997	nr Abersoch, Gwynedd
	XF	28-03-2014	Braich y Pwll, Aberdaron, Gwynedd
			16km W 16y 7m 26d

Just one month shy of the longevity record for this species which, despite the length of time and intensity with which this species has been studied, was set in 1981.

Blue Tit

L845837	3	22-12-2012	Thetford, Norfolk
	R	01-03-2014	Garth, Llangollen, Denbighshire 268km WNW 1y 2m 7d

A good movement for a Blue Tit, the second furthest reported in the UK during 2014, after a bird moving from Highland to Herefordshire.

Skylark

TT57189	4	21-01-2014	Esgair-Fwyog, Crychan Forest, Carmarthenshire
	R	14-12-2014	Esgair-Fwyog, Crychan Forest, Carmarthenshire 0km 0y 10m 23d

Given how few Skylark are ringed in Wales each year it's pretty good going to be able to retrap one of your birds the next winter.

Sand Martin

MY5582	4M	12-03-2013	Silla, Valencia, SPAIN 39°21'N 0°24'W
	R	26-07-2013	Glasbury, Powys 1,426km N 0y 4m 14d

Only the fourth Spanish-ringed Sand Martin caught in Wales.

Swallow

Y570345	3F	28-07-2012	Llwyn Y Moch, Carmarthenshire
	R	02-05-2014	Gaategiz-Arteaga, SPAIN 43°21'N 2°39'W 945km S 1y 9m 4d

The tenth record of a Welsh-ringed Swallow being recovered in Spain.

Chiffchaff

2H5414	4	19-04-1984	Bardsey Island, Gwynedd
	R	27-06-1984	Lemland, FINLAND 59°49'N 19°55'E 1,712km ENE 0y 2m 8d
	R	21-09-1984	Lemland, FINLAND 59°49'N 19°55'E 1,712km ENE 0y 5m 2d

It is great to see that this bird was caught at another bird observatory – in this case Lagskar Bird Observatory in the middle of the Baltic Sea at the mouth of the Gulf of Bothnia – the fact they managed to catch it again in the autumn is really amazing.

This is only the third ever movement of a BTO-ringed Chiffchaff to Finland.

Blackcap

11967866	3M	19-09-2010	Donstiennes, BELGIUM 50°16'N 4°18'E
	R	13-11-2010	Rhos-on-Sea, Clwyd 646km WNW 0y 1m 25d
LR86966	3M	09-04-2013	Tor Paterno, ITALY 41°40'N 12°24'E

	R	08-05-2013	Bardsey Island, Gwynedd
	R	14-05-2013	Bardsey Island, Gwynedd
			1,783km NW 0y 1m 5d (Map)
EE06661	3M	11-04-2012	Sofiemyr, Oppegard, NORWAY: 59°48'N 10°48'E
	XF	28-02-2014	Llanfair, Gwynedd
			1,200km SW 1y 10m 17d

A nice selection of overseas recoveries reported during the year. The Belgian-ringed bird nicely illustrates the route taken from their breeding areas in central Europe by our wintering Blackcap. LR86966 is only the third movement of an Italian-ringed bird to the UK.

Sedge Warbler

90170826	4	06-02-2011	Djoudj National Park, SENEGAL 16°27'N 16°16'W
	R	20-05-2012	Llyn Ystumllyn, Gwynedd
	R	26-05-2013	Llyn Ystumllyn, Gwynedd
	R	27-05-2014	Llyn Ystumllyn, Gwynedd
			4,190km NNE 3y 3m 21d
6792244	5	05-01-2014	Reserve N'diael, SENEGAL 16°19'N 15°57'W
	R	20-07-2014	Mullock, nr Marloes, Pembrokeshire
			4,051km NNE 0y 6m 15d (Map)
Y52046	3	30-08-2013	Jaizubia, Hondarribia, SPAIN 43°21'N 1°49'W
	R	07-08-2014	Oxwich Marsh, Swansea
			930km N 0y 11m 8d
D512535	3	24-07-2014	Bardsey Island, Gwynedd
	R	10-08-2014	Villaviciosa, Asturias, SPAIN: 43°28'N 5°25'W
			1,033km S 0y 0m 17d

A nice selection of overseas-ringed birds this year. It's also great to see the site fidelity shown by the first bird.

Redwing

RF02880	3	24-11-2012	Pen-y-Groeslon, Gwynedd
	R	31-10-2014	Merksplas, BELGIUM 51°22'N 4°52'E
			670km ESE 1y 11m 7d

Ringling recoveries show that winter thrushes show little site fidelity from winter to winter.

Robin

7085707	3	16-10-2013	le Fort Vert, Marck, FRANCE 50°55'N 1°57'E
	XF	12-11-2014	Rhose, Vale of Glamorgan
			373km W 1y 0m 27d

Only the thirteenth time a French-ringed Robin has made its way to the UK, a shame it will not be travelling any further. It's quite likely this is a British bird wintering in France and then remaining in the UK the following year.

Pied/White Wagtail

Y358799	3F	16-09-2012	Slapton Ley, Devon
	VV	30-06-2013	Finnstadir, Sudur Mula, ICELAND 65°16'N 14°24'W
			1,781km NNW 0y 9m 14d

R	10-09-2014	Bardsey Island, Gwynedd
		286km NNW 1y 11m 25d

An interesting series of movements and fascinating when you can build up a migration history for passerines.

Brambling

82170540	5M	11-04-2013	Schortens, Germany 53°31'N 7°55'E
	R	09-02-2014	Bryn Picca, Dolfor, Powys
			767km W 0y 9m 29d

The first German-ringed Brambling to be recovered in Wales and, perhaps surprisingly, only the sixteenth for the UK.

Goldfinch

7091559	6M	03-02-2013	Maison, St. Venant, FRANCE 50°37'N 2°31'E
	R	20-04-2014	Llwynmawr, Wrexham
			468km NW 1y 2m 17d

The first French-ringed Goldfinch to be recovered in Wales.

Twite

Z033607	3F	29-08-2014	North Erradale, Gairloch, Highland
	R	11-09-2014	North Erradale, Gairloch, Highland
	R	29-12-2014	Cemlyn Bay, Anglesey
			492km S 0y 4m 0d
X824148	5M	06-03-2010	near Pensarn, Clwyd
	R	25-11-2014	Askam Pier, Cumbria
			105km NNE 4y 8m 19d

With the decrease in the Twite population it's good to see the small number of Twite wintering in Wales targeted by ringers to assist in monitoring.

Lesser Redpoll

7260203	3	08-11-2013	Avion, Pas-de-Calais, FRANCE 50°24'N 2°49'E
	R	11-04-2014	Bardsey Island, Gwynedd
			588km WNW 0y 5m 3d

The main wintering area for Lesser Redpoll is southern Britain, Belgium and France so this first French-ringed bird is a bit overdue.

Hawfinch

D720177	3M	07-11-2013	South Milton Ley, Devon
	R	05-06-2014	Magor Marsh, Monmouthshire
			162km NNE 0y 6m 29d

Hawfinch tend to be very sedentary, as shown by the lack of long-distance movements despite the intense ringing effort, so any movements over 100km are of interest.

Review: *The Life of Buzzards* by Peter Dare (Whittles Publishing Ltd, 2015)

Peter Dare's name is well known to birders in Wales both for his Buzzard work, some of it published in *Welsh Birds/Birds in Wales*, but particularly for his work on Oystercatchers when there was a call back in the 1960s to cull these waders because of a perceived impact on cockles and mussels.

Peter is very well qualified to write this book. He first studied Buzzards in Devon in a Dartmoor study area in the 1950s for his PhD, looking at the effect on Buzzards of myxomatosis, then a new disease of rabbits. After a stint in the Sudan he started his marine career in 1962 in government shellfisheries research in North Wales; however, from North Wales he travelled regularly to Devon to continue monitoring his Dartmoor Buzzard population and did so until 1969. Meanwhile in his leisure time in Wales he began a study of Buzzards and Ravens in a large area of 1300 sq.km in the mountains of Snowdonia and on the Denbigh Moors and continued this study until he was transferred to Suffolk in 1982. Luckily, fellow raptor enthusiast Julian Driver has continued the North Wales study to the present day and much of Julian's work is acknowledged and synthesised in this book. Incidentally, Peter finally found Buzzards nesting in Suffolk in 2006, the first for a century or more.

The book is a summary of our knowledge of the Buzzard derived largely from Peter's own studies but also using fully the findings of other workers in Britain such as Robin Prytherch in Somerset and Peter Davis in mid Wales, and by others on the Continent. After a general introduction and a description of the author's study areas in Devon and in North Wales, there are seven chapters on Buzzard activities throughout the year starting with the winter and ending with autumn. Then follow six chapters which expand on key aspects of the species' ecology. A full bibliography and numerous appendices complete the book.

It is refreshing to see a research worker show in his writing how much he obviously enjoyed the landscape and the Buzzards themselves; this pleasure permeates the book. There are numerous colour photographs especially of the chicks in the nest. I found the book immensely readable and full of interesting snippets on behaviour. I hadn't appreciated how important Adders and Frogs in the early spring were to Devon Buzzards, frogs comprising 19% of the prey items and 21% of the prey weight. Nor had I fully appreciated how stable territories area – in Devon the numbers of territories and their shape have remained almost stable for over 45 years with a few extra pairs at the edges of the study area. In Snowdonia Julian Driver has documented the doubling of Buzzard territories over 20 years but the extra territories were smaller and mainly in upland areas. Somerset apparently has the highest densities in the UK with a pair of Buzzards per square kilometre.

There is much on the recent dramatic expansion of Buzzards into Eastern England and Ireland, probably largely due to decreased persecution and more tolerance by gamekeepers. It is horrific to read that in 1955, despite legal protection already been given in 1954 to raptors generally, more than 400 Buzzards were shot that year in three small areas of Devon. Now thankfully attitudes of farmers and landowners have largely changed. However, there is an interesting addendum to chapter 12 'The facets of predation' about

Buzzards and Pheasants. Peter noted 'the governments' controversial and ill-conceived policy' in 2013 to allow destruction of Buzzard nests and the removal or translocation of some adults from several shooting estates. He summarises the research into the effect of predation on Pheasants and emphasises that a study by the British Association for Shooting and Conservation (BASC) found that losses of Pheasant poults attributable to Buzzards ranged from less than 1% to more than 10% and some detailed research in Dorset found that of 901 losses to predators from more than 20,000 poults, only 4.3% were attributable to Buzzards. Other predators such as Foxes and corvids are more of a threat and yet Buzzards prey on corvids, especially nestling crows, Magpies and Jays as in the New Forest.

I thoroughly recommend the book to all readers of Birds in Wales. With 292 pages and numerous photographs it is good value for £29.99.

Stephanie J. Tyler

County and other bird reports 2014

This report is compiled from the county bird reports for 2014, most of which are available for purchase or online as follows:

Gwent Bird Report 2014. Editor: John Coleman.

Available from Andrew Cormack, 29 Chestnut Drive, Abergavenny, Monmouthshire NP7 5JZ, Price £10 + £1.50 p and p. Cheques payable to the Gwent Ornithological Society.

Eastern Glamorgan Bird Report 2014. Editor: John Wilson.

Available from the Editor, 122 Westbourne Road, Penarth, Vale of Glamorgan CF64 3HH. Price: £8.00 plus £1.51 postage. Cheques payable to Glamorgan Bird Club.

Gower Birds - the birds of Swansea and Neath Port Talbot 2014.

2014 due in February 2016. Contact Mark Hipkin 6 Holly Road Neath SA11 3PE.

Carmarthenshire Bird Report 2014. Editor: Rob Hunt.

Available from Wendell Thomas, 48 Glebe Road, Loughor, Swansea SA4 6QD Cheque for £7 (includes postage) payable to Carmarthenshire Bird Club.

Pembrokeshire Bird Report 2014. Editor: Jon Green

Now available online only:

<http://www.pembrokeshirebirdgroup.blogspot.co.uk/p/reports.html>

Ceredigion Bird Report 2014. Editor: André Marsh

Available from André Marsh: Derwen 3 Bridge St, Pontrhydfendigaid, Ystrad Meurig, SY25 6EE. Cheque for £5 +£1.20 for p&p, payable to The Wildlife Trust for South and West Wales.

Breconshire Bird Report 2014. Editor: Andrew King

Available from Brecknock Wildlife Trust, Lion House, Bethel Square, Brecon, Powys LD3 7AY. Price £7.00 + £1.00 p&p. Cheques payable to 'Brecknock Wildlife Trust'. Back copies available at £1.50.

Montgomeryshire Bird Report 2014

Published online at <http://montgomerybirdblog.blogspot.co.uk/>

Cambrian Bird Report 2014 (Anglesey, Caernarfon and Meirionnydd) Editor: John Small

Available from Geoff Gibbs, Fron Wen, Valley Road, Llanfairfechan, Conwy B.C. LL33 0ET. Price £7.20p including postage, cheque payable to Cambrian O.S.

North-East Wales Bird Report 2014 (Denbighshire and Flintshire). Editor: Ian Spence.

Available from the Editor, 43 Blackbrook, Sychdyn, Mold CH7 6LT. Price £5.00 + £1.70 p&p.

Other Bird Reports

Bardsey's Wildlife 2014. Editor: Anthony John.

Available from: Jo Jones, 70 Newmarket Road, Burwell, Cambs, CB25 0AE. £10.00 + £2.50 p&p, cheque payable to "Bardsey Bird & Field Observatory"

The Wildlife Trust South & West Wales publishes *The Island Naturalist*, which is the Journal of the Friends of Skokholm and Skomer.

Skokholm Bird Observatory Annual Report 2014

Available to download at: <http://www.welshwildlife.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/Skokholm-Annual-Report-2014-compressed-01.pdf>